Adan says probes might cause 'disturbances' in AFP

STORY ON PAGE A2

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2001 ★ 84 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 267 ₱15

33 share in lotto pot

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YEHEY!!

BRICK, New Jersey—Shoppers at the local Pathmark supermarket may have to wait a little longer for someone to ring up their purchases.

Thirty-three of the store's 250 employ-

33 SHARE/ A6

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **UAAP: NU upsets La Salle**
  SPORTS / A20
- **8 dead in 2 road accidents**
  METRO / A23
- **Gov't to scrap import tariffs**
  BUSINESS / B1
- **Trains collide; 36 killed**
  WORLD / A13

4 Chinese traders seized in Valenzuela

Heavily armed men abduct victims riding in van

By Christian Esguerra and Martin Marfil

TWO men and two women of Chinese descent were kidnapped by at least six heavily armed men on Saturday afternoon in Valenzuela City, police said yesterday.

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao disclosed that the Philippine National Police was seriously looking into reports that members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force were behind a series of abductions carried out this year.

Supt. Nemesio Neron, Valenzuela police chief, said the four victims were abducted by six men armed with M-16 rifles around 5:30 p.m. in Barangay Ugong. At least two of the victims are reportedly Chinese nationals.

Neron told the Inquirer that three of the victims reportedly had businesses in Valenzuela while the fourth owned a factory in Malabon.

He refused to reveal the names of the victims, but a police report prepared by Insp. Salvador de la Cruz of Valenzuela identified one of the victims as a certain Jessica.

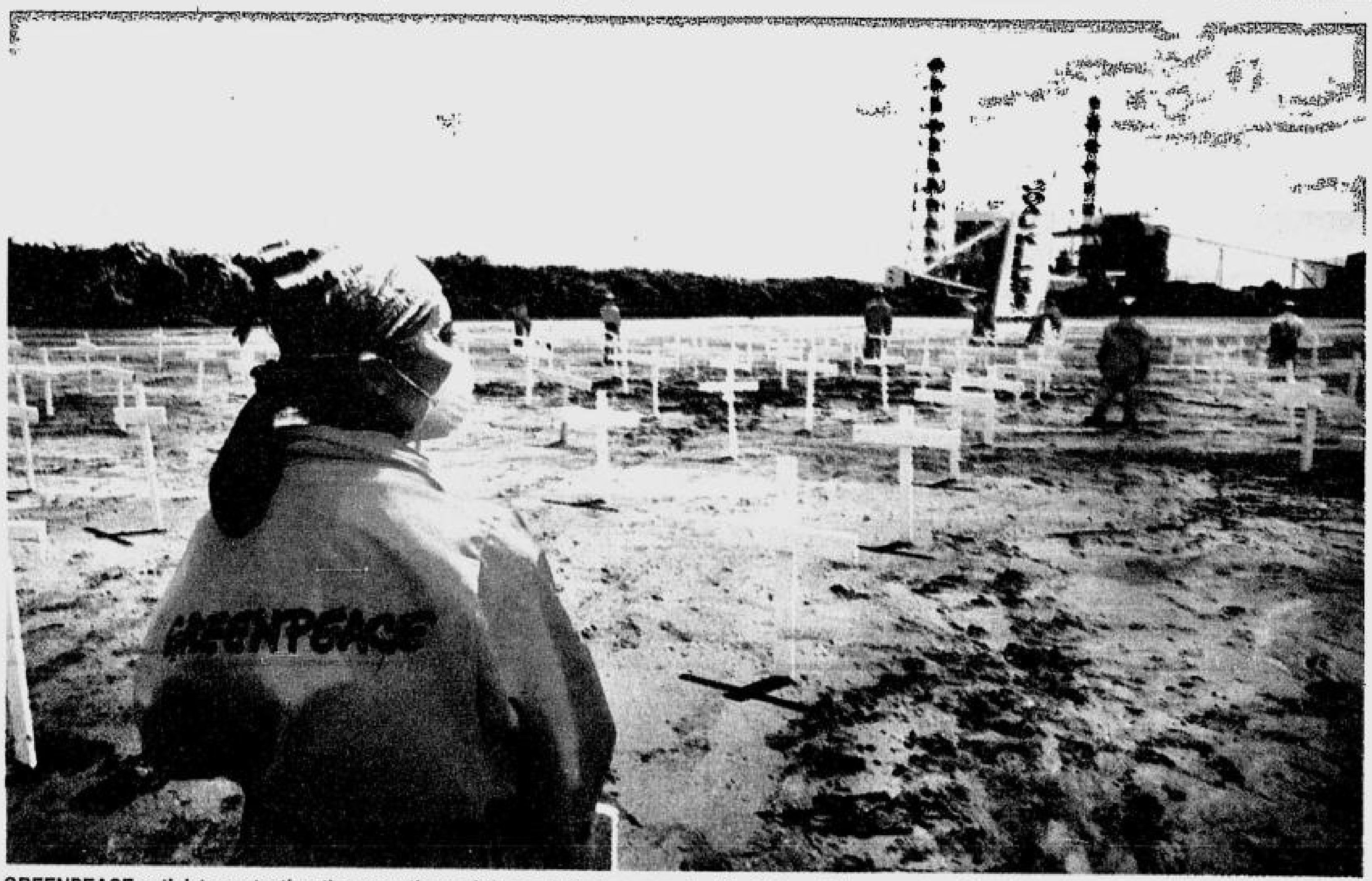
Neron said the victims were aboard a Toyota Revo van, with Plate No. WFT-196, when the gunmen, in a Honda Civic with Plate No. UKM-436, blocked their path near the boundary of Valenzuela and Quezon City.

The abductors and their captives sped off toward Novaliches, he said.

As of press time, police had yet to determine if the armed men commandeered the van and took it as well, or if they dragged the victims into the Civic and fled.

Tiglao said the PNP based its theory that PAOCTF members were behind the spate of kidnappings on "raw" intelligence reports.

4 CHINESE/ A4



GREENPEACE activists protesting the operations of the coal-fired power plant in Calaca, Batangas, transform its ash pond into a virtual cemetery of victims of alleged toxic waste from the facility..

NICO SEPE

Toxic alarm up over coal power plant

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALACA, Batangas—It was an eerie venue for a press conference, but not for a daring group of environmental activists from the Greenpeace Southeast Asia.

From the vast ash pond, where the toxic byproducts of the 600-megawatt coal-fired power plant of the National Power Corp. are deposited in this coastal town south of Manila, the activists sent their message across: "Coal Kills."

At least 17 Greenpeace members on Thursday planted 200 white crosses in the barren ash field of the Napocor plant to dramatize the toxic pollution associated with coal-fired plants.

The group invited local and foreign journalists to witness its protest.

Representatives of the Crusade for Sustainable Environment based in Mauban, Quezon, which opposes the operation of a similar coal-fired power plant in their community, were also present to express solidarity.

"The communities surrounding the coal plant are potential graveyards," Red Constantino, energy campaigner of the Greenpeace Southeast Asia, said as he explained why the wooden crosses were planted.

Constantino disclosed results of recent tests that, he said, confirmed the presence of "neurotoxin mercury" in ash dumped by the Napocor on open fields beside the coastal fishing grounds of the

TOXIC/ A18

Erap, son return to court for pre-trial

By Donna S. Cueto

IT'S back to court they go.

Accused of plunder, former President Joseph Estrada, son Jinggoy and lawyer Edward Serapio today return to the Sandiganbayan for the start of the four-day pre-trial of their case.

The anti-graft court has ordered Philippine National Police chief Director General Leandro Mendoza to promptly produce the three in court at 2 p.m. for the first of the pre-trial hearings, which are scheduled to be completed Thursday.

Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag said that the Estradas and Serapio had no choice but to attend the hearing this afternoon. He added, however, that the defense would pursue a request for the court to allow the accused to skip future pre-trial and trial hearings where their testimony is not needed.

Another defense lawyer, Cleofe Verzola, said her team might push for the postponement of the proceedings because of Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr.'s failure so far to resolve a motion asking him to reconsider his earlier refusal to inhibit himself from the case.

During a pre-trial, the prosecution and defense teams agree on markings of evidence and on certain stipulations, such as common definitions of terms to be used in the actual trial. For instance, the defense team plans to stipulate today that the three men charged in the plunder case are the same three who will appear in court this afternoon.

"Does it serve the public interest that every hearing date, these three accused are present?" Saguisag asked.

He argued that the government would likely have to spend millions of pesos to secure and transport the deposed President and his son to and from the court and the Veterans' Memorial Medical Center where they are detained, and to secure the Sandiganbayan premises.

"These are all unnecessary and costly" expenditures, he said.

The police and military have prepared a contingent to secure the

ERAP/ A18

Campos: I had affair with Ong

By Carlito Pablo

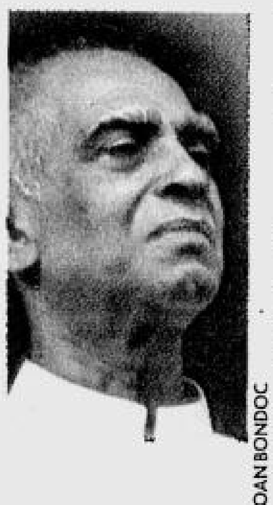
ANTI-NARCOTICS officer Supt. John Campos admitted for the first time in an interview yesterday that he and his accuser, former civilian agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong, became lovers in 1997 after his former marriage failed, but he stuck to his statement that they had never lived together as she had claimed.

Campos, 35, a decorated officer of the NarcGroup who holds the record for leading the largest heroin bust in the country, also revealed that he is in love with another woman whom he has been seeing for the last three years—and is looking forward to a second marriage.

"I knew it was not prudent to sleep with an agent, but it happened," he told the Inquirer, referring to his former involvement with Ong, whom he "handled" when she was a civilian undercover agent helping police spy on a Hong Kong triad drug ring.

"I was heartbroken (because of the failure of my marriage, and Ong) was the one I would see often because of work," said Campos, who in earlier remarks had insisted that all the two had was a "handler-

CAMPOS/ A6



JOAN BONDOC

AMARADEVA: A new genre of music and a voice next door in native Sri Lanka.

RM awardee's music bares a country's soul

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

W. D. AMARADEVA has written more than a thousand songs; together, they have given sound to the Sri Lankan soul.

This year's Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts, Amaradeva, 74, is better described as the "creator of Sinhala music."

For composing and performing music (he is also a vocalist and violinist) are not all that Amaradeva does. He has created a new genre, one that blends the many influences, both indigenous and foreign, that are deeply rooted in Sri Lanka, his island-country south of the Indian subcontinent.

Amaradeva's music is a product of many years of research, adaptation and assimilation. And most of all, of listening.

To the melodies ancient and new that wafted in his soul, he listened. From that musical wellspring flowed a river of songs. The wonder is that collectively, they struck a chord in the Sri Lankan soul, like strains of a long lost and forgotten song waiting to be sung.

But the proof is in the listening. Amaradeva's music is truly a new blend. (Try his website at

RM/ A18

Economy not yet over the hump

ANALYSIS

By Amando Doronila

THE GOVERNMENT announced last week a 3.3-percent growth in the gross domestic product in the second quarter, posting a net 1.5-percent growth compared with 3.2 percent in the first three months of the year.

While the growth may be marginal, it was unexpected by private economists in the region and even by the government.

That the economy grew at all against the bleak backdrop of the domestic political turbulence and the slowdown of the advanced industrial economies and regional economies prompted varied comments of astonishment.

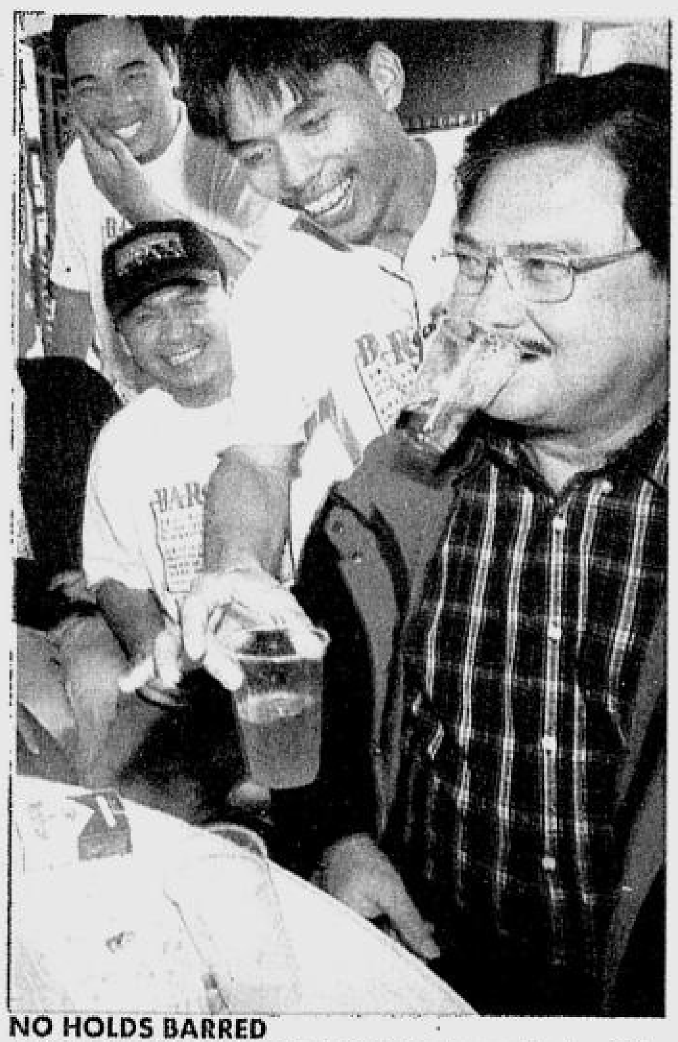
It also raised questions that the quarterly growth might just be a fluke. So, it requires closer examination before anyone can say the economy has turned a corner.

President Macapagal-Arroyo welcomed the growth as "sure signs" of an economic turnaround and a return of business confidence, saying the economy posted such growth in the midst of "political turmoil."

The growth took place during a turbulent period—the storming of Malacañang by mobs on May 1, the close Senate election results, a surge of kidnappings and hostage-takings, and political disturbances stemming from the plunder trial of former President Joseph Estrada.

The context may be true, but the President looks like she is overeager in

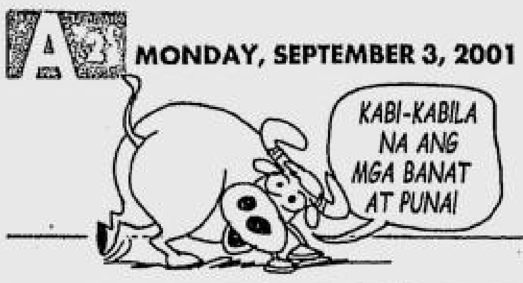
ECONOMY/ A18



NO HOLDS BARRED

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez joins law graduates of the Batangas University in a spirited mood as they wait for their classmates who are taking the four-Sunday bar exams at the De La Salle University in Manila.

ERIK ARAZAS


KABI-KABILA NA ANG MGA BANAT AT PUNA!

MILITARY UNDER FIRE

Coup, no; disturbances, yes

BY CARLITO PABLO
AND VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ARMED Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan yesterday dismissed as "fiction" persistent rumors of a military coup.

But he conceded that "there might be disturbances" in the armed services because of the controversies roiling not only the officers of the Armed Forces but also that of the Philippine National Police.

The Senate and the House have launched investigations into allegations of connivance between AFP officers and the Abu Sayyaf bandit group in Basilan, as well as charges of serious criminal wrongdoing against Sen. Panfilo Lacson and PNP officers associated with him.

In Baguio City, party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo said the recent scandals implicating top military officers are pushing the Armed Forces back to its old "Marcosian" ways.

Ocampo, who was interviewed in Baguio last Saturday, said the AFP was reacting to the scandals "in the old way of the Marcos dictatorship—in the classic military mindset."

Citing documents that show at least four military violations occurring in Northern Luzon every month, Ocampo said the military establishment was responding with "renewed militarization."

He warned the implications for the country were ominous as Marcos-style militarization would imperil ongoing peace negotiations with the communist and Moro insurgents.

Adan did not say what kind of "disturbances" might result from the controversies dogging the military but assured that "it's not serious."

"A coup is a serious matter. You just don't think or plan it overnight," Adan said.

But he noted that there was "a statement of concern from the ranks" regarding the congressional investigation into allegations by parish priest Fr. Cirilo Nacorda that some military officers in Basilan had received pay-offs from the Abu Sayyaf.

"The best way is to get the investigation over with quickly, (and achieve) a closure that will eventually prove that charges of Fr. Nacorda are not true," he said.

Ocampo said the government's "position of strength" in the ongoing peace talks with communist rebels and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front have been weakened by charges that Army officers took bribes from the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The public tussles involving Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus and Sen. Panfilo Lacson are also badly affecting the government's position, he said.

"I actually praised (President Macapagal-Arroyo) for embarking on the peace process. But Marcos-style militarization is bound to make these peace negotiations a failure," he said.

Palace defends pro-'text' position

BY M. MARFIL

MALACAÑANG yesterday defended the government's entry into the war to retain free text messages for consumers.

At the same time, it tried to assure big business that this should not be construed as an attempt to intervene in business.

"The cellular phone companies have been able to build up their consumer base because they offered (the) free text feature. (Transportation and Communication Secretary Pantaleon) Alvarez believes that the state has a role to try... to serve the public interest," Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

"You cannot just take this (free text) away. Right now, that is the stand of Alvarez and so far, the President is supporting him on this," Tiglao added.

Asked if this could be interpreted as government intervention, Tiglao tried to come up with an assurance.

"Definitely this is not intervention. The DOTC secretary just wants that government will also have a role in assuring that the public interest is served but at the same time, not interfering in business decisions," he said.

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Mahathir says Islamic militants out to merge RP, Malaysia, Indonesia

KUALA LUMPUR—Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Saturday said a local Islamic militant group had planned a holy war to merge Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines into a single hard-core Islamic state, the national Bernama news agency reported.

"They have very big ambition but it's not realistic," Bernama quoted Mahathir as saying.

Mahathir said the group had forged links with Islamic militant groups in Indonesia and the Philippines in their bid to create an Islamic state comprising the three Southeast Asian neighbors.

Malaysian police said they busted the militant group in June and have since arrested 16 people including several members of Malaysia's largest opposition party, the fundamentalist Pan-Malaysian Islamic party.

Police claim the local militant group learned guerrilla tactics in Afghanistan, fought against Indonesian Christians in the Maluku Islands, and staged robberies and murders in Malaysia to install a hard-core Islamic state.

On July 26, Malaysian police seized two M-16 rifles, six revolvers and 74 rounds of ammunition from a boat heading to the violence-wrecked city of Ambon in the Malukus. Two Malaysians and 13 Indonesians were arrested.

Malaysian police said the weapons were obtained from Sitangkai island in Tawi-Tawi and were meant for Muslims fighting Christians in Ambon.

Indonesian police say that at least four Malaysians were behind the bombing of a shopping mall in Jakarta Aug. 1 and another blast July 22 at a church. Dozens of people were injured.

Indonesian authorities have arrested a Malaysian who was injured when the bomb he was carrying exploded at the mall. *AP*

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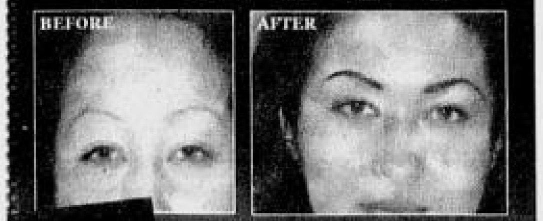

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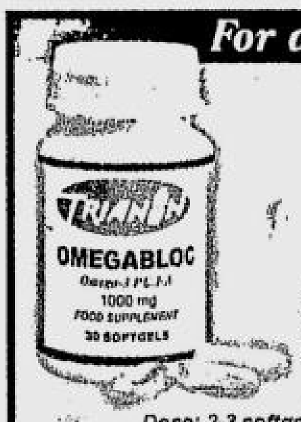

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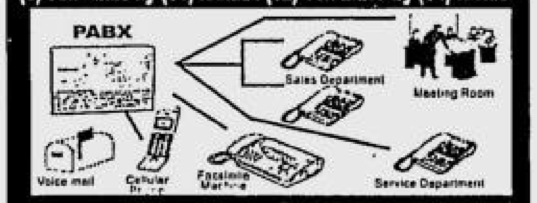

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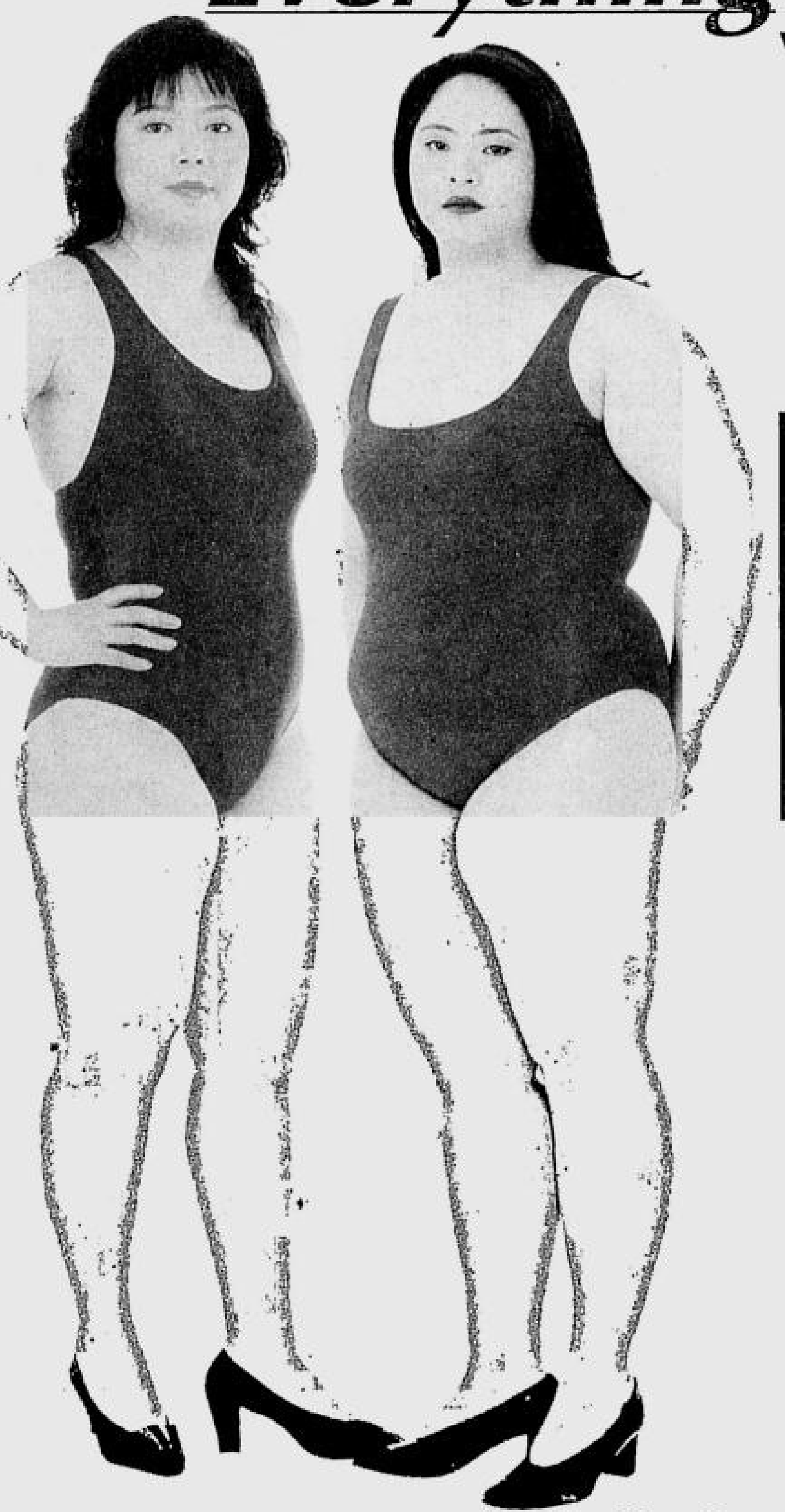

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4 Chinese traders seized in Valenzuela

(From page A1)

"Some of the reports show that fully uniformed men took some of the victims," he said in a telephone interview.

"Ordinary groups won't have that boldness and an analysis by intelligence agents and reports from assets indicated that these could be members of the PAOCTF," he added.

PNP report

Asked to cite other indications that members of the PAOCTF were behind some of the kidnappings, Tiglao said he still had to get a report from the PNP.

The remark came amid reports that kidnapping incidents rose from 27 last year to 53 in the first seven months of this year.

Tiglao said Malacañang was still checking the figures if the total included kidnappings mounted by the Abu Sayyaf and other groups in Mindanao.

On Saturday, Tiglao issued a statement citing "exceptional factors" that could have contributed to the rise in the number of kidnapping incidents this year.

Kidnap groups may have taken advantage of the distraction caused by destabilization attempts against the Macapagal administration in April and May, he said.

"There have also been reports that sacked officers and men of the defunct PAOCTF retaliated against this government by undertaking kidnapping, using the arms and uniforms they had refused to turn over to the PNP," the statement said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is "very much concerned" about the problem, Tiglao said.

"She has categorically ordered the PNP to focus on annihilating kidnapping gangs and totally eradicating such crimes within the year," he added.

PR writers

Tiglao also noted that the PNP continued to be wracked by intrigue apparently sown by a "group of PR (public relations) writers."

He was referring to a manifesto that circulated last week calling for the resignation of police generals to pave the way for a revamp of the organization.

The manifesto, he said, could be the work of the PR group. He did not identify members of the group but said he believed some of them could be working for certain media organizations.

The group apparently wants to sow division within the PNP and is using former PAOCTF agent Mary Ong's testimony as a takeoff point, he added.

Ong, aka Rosebud, told a Senate hearing last week that high-ranking police officers were involved with the Hong Kong Triad in the trafficking of millions of pesos worth of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) in the country.

On Friday, the President warned the public not to "fall prey" to the "sinister designs" of unscrupulous people who may want to divide the PNP.

Tiglao, in a statement on Saturday, said Ms Macapagal was not referring to the manifesto but to media reports that had "distorted" Ong's allegations that the PNP's main headquarters in Camp Crame was once the center of illegal drug trade.

House inquiry

At the House of Representatives, the committee on public order and safety announced that it would look into the government's hostage negotiation procedures after two Chinese engineers abducted in Central Mindanao died as ransom money was being delivered to secure their release.

The committee's subcommittee on bank robbery and kidnap for ransom, chaired by Manila Rep. Harry Angpin, has invited PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza, Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza and Chinese Ambassador Wang Chungui to a hearing today.

Angpin called on Congress "to conduct the inquiry in aid of legislation . . . with the end in view of putting a stop to the kidnapping spree being perpetrated in Mindanao."

The Chinese engineers were killed during a gun battle between the kidnappers and soldiers of the Army's 301st Infantry Battalion.

The Valenzuela kidnapping was the third incident to be reported in northern Manila since July.

On July 21, three armed men tried to abduct Chinese-Filipino businesswoman Bertiza Tan as she was about to enter her house in San Rafael Village in Navotas.

Two weeks later, three kidnappers disguised as policemen seized 19-year-old Chinese-Filipino student Niño Lorenzo Pe Tobiano along Araneta Avenue in Malabon. *With a report from Rocky Nazareno*

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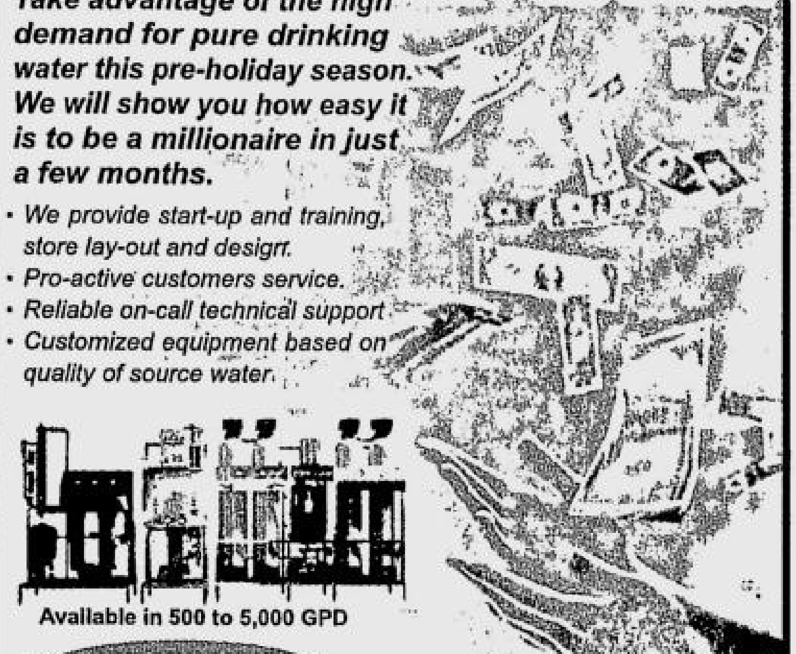
MA. Cristina Hidalgo, former chancellor of the UP Open University, and Carlito Puno, former president of the Philippine Christian University, were named to the Commission on Higher Education last week following the retirement of two commissioners.

Hidalgo took her oath last Monday while Puno, whose stint at the PCU was marred by controversy, was sworn in on Wednesday.

They replaced commissioners Mona Valisno and Roberto Padua who resigned on Aug. 22.

The CHEd has recently given "full autonomy" to 30 private schools that have excellent academic records, allowing them to alter their curricula without consulting the CHEd, as is the standard procedure. *Blanche S. Rivera*

HIDALGO



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33 share in lotto pot

(From page A1)

ees shared one of the two winning tickets for a Big Game lottery jackpot worth $115 million.

The other half of the Friday night jackpot in the multi-state game goes to the holder of a ticket sold in Camden.

Paul Silecchia was the first Pathmark worker to realize that he and his colleagues were rich. He came in early Saturday to go through their pool of tickets, and found that one had all six numbers.

"I stared at it for about a minute," he said. "I saw the numbers, but it didn't seem real."

"I'm still numb, in shock, total disbelief," said fellow employee Lillian Mahaffey. "I can't even find the words to describe it."

Mahaffey, a customer service representative at the supermarket, had been up all night caring for her ailing young son. "When I came in and they said we won, I said 'Don't tease me; I'm in no mood for it today.'"

Store manager Bernadette Lemke, who also had a share of the winning ticket, said she had to remind her fellow new millionaires several times Saturday morning to go back to work.

Lemke had another problem. "My husband doesn't even know yet," she said. "I just did an interview with the radio, and when he hears my voice, he's gonna die."

"Everyone is happy for us," she added. "Even the customers are happy for us."

The 33 colleagues each put $10 into the pot—enough for 330 tickets.

Taking their winnings as annuities with payouts spread over 26 years would mean a total of about $1.7 million per person.

Taking the one-time cash option would reduce that by about half. The workers initially chose the cash option, but several said they were considering changing to the annuity.

Both Lemke and Mahaffey said they planned to continue working, but they couldn't say if all their co-workers would do the same.

"I like to work," Mahaffey said. "I like our customers."

Another member of the winning group, Tom Pettinato, said the windfall would change their relationship with management. "If they give us any nonsense now, we can walk," he said.

The winning numbers were 4, 7, 8, 12 and 38. The Big Money Ball number was 16.

It was the second lottery prize for workers at the Brick Pathmark. Several years ago, they pooled their resources and had a Pick 6 ticket with five of the six winning numbers, winning several thousand dollars, Mahaffey said.

Big Game tickets are sold in New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Illinois and Michigan.

Last week, four winning tickets were announced in a $294.8-million Powerball jackpot, the third-biggest lottery prize in US history.

Reuters

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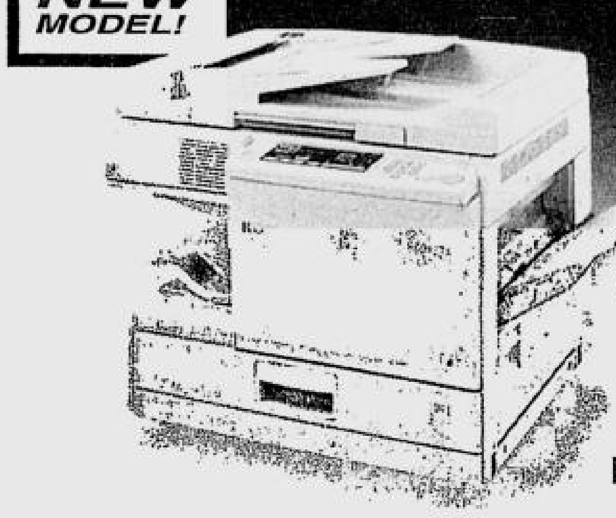

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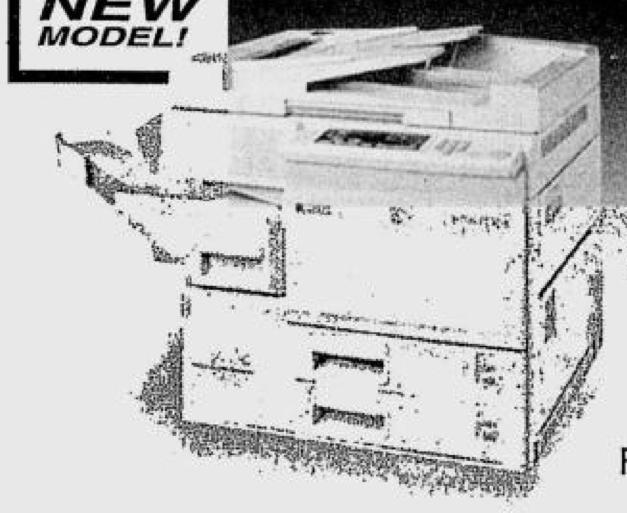

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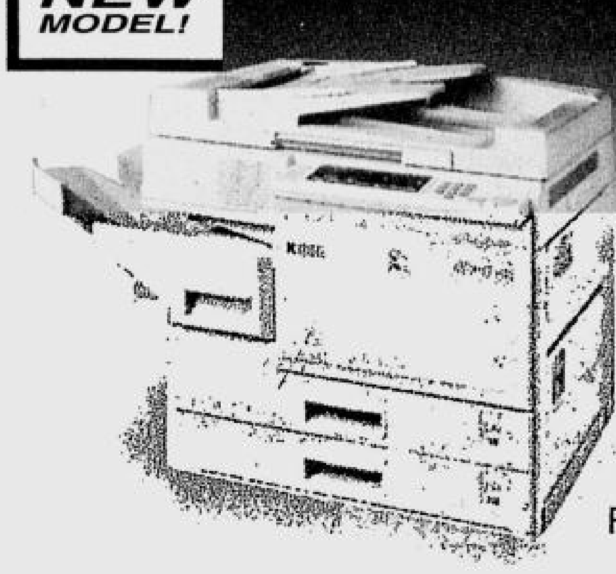

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Campos . . .

(From page A1)

agent" relationship.

"I was good to her two sons. I would take them to watch basketball games, swimming. I would send gifts during their birthdays," he said, explaining Ong's claim that her children (by a previous marriage) treated him like a second father.

His earlier denials of her claim that they were once live-in lovers and his assertion that "there was never any love" between them invited sharp criticism from women's groups last week.

"My apologies to feminist groups. I didn't mean to be arrogant, but that is the truth," Campos said.

He said he hoped to marry his new sweetheart, whose identity he did not reveal, "when this is over," referring to the controversy sparked by Ong's allegation that Camp Crame was the center of the country's drug trade when Sen. Panfilo Lacson headed the Philippine National Police.

"I hope this will be over soon," Campos stressed.

Borrowed for defense

Campos has found himself, along with several other police officers, in the eye of the storm, after Ong accused him of being part of a police network engaged in selling confiscated illegal drugs from Hong Kong to suspected Chinese drug lords detained in Camp Crame.

According to Ong, Campos was a key player in the alleged syndicate led by Lacson, then chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, and former PNP Narcotics Group head Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop.

But Campos, a member of Class 1987 of the Philippine Military Academy, asserted that "I never made money from drugs. In fact, I have had to borrow money from our class fund for my legal defense now."

Awarded officer

Campos served as chief of the NarcGroup's foreign liaison group for five years, from 1993 to 1998.

Through an endorsement by the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Campos received the International Award of Honor from the International Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association in 1995.

The recommendation was signed by then DEA attaché to the Philippines William Bish and his successor, Jeffrey Wendling.

The citation noted that with Campos' help, DEA agents managed to seize $2 million in "drug trafficker assets" in the United States, and arrest and charge 13 heroin merchants in Manila and Thailand associated with a West African syndicate.

He was the valedictorian of his class this year when he completed his Master's in Public Safety Administration at the PNP-run Public Safety College.

Walking database

"I'm considered a walking database on narcotics," said Campos, who was the NarcGroup's principal contact with the DEA, the Narcotics Bureau of the Royal Hong Kong Police, the Australian Federal Police, Royal Dutch Police and other similar agencies.

Before and during his stint at the NarcGroup, Campos was a decorated police officer, the recipient of three Bronze Crosses for his role in the arrest of communist leaders in the Visayas.

He also garnered six Kadakilaan Awards, one of which was for neutralizing a Kuratong Baleleng-affiliated group in Cebu City.

It was while he was in Cebu that he served as intelligence officer for Lacson, then chief of the Cebu Metro District Command from 1990-1992.

Campos was first assigned in Negros Oriental after he graduated from the PMA.

'She lost control'

In 1996, he said, Ong was referred to him by the Hong Kong police, which had previously "recruited" her as a civilian informant. According to Campos, Ong was enjoying some form of immunity in the then British colony, but was encountering problems with Philippine customs authorities.

"She was into smuggling, and every time she passed through Customs here in Manila, she was subjected to a thorough search. As requested by Hong Kong, I extended assistance to her," Campos said.

Under an "arrangement" with the Hong Kong police, Ong became a NarcGroup asset with Campos, the foreign liaison officer, assigned as her handler.

"It was mainly for surveillance (purposes). She would inform us that so-and-so drug lord would be coming to Manila. We would monitor his movements here and inform Hong Kong about it," according to Campos.

Campos again denied Ong's accusation that he used to beat her up in the five years they purportedly lived together.

Campos' marriage was annulled in 1998. It was around this time, according to him, that he and Ong began to part ways. "*Nagkakalat na siya* (she was losing control)," Campos said, referring to her work as an agent.

He said he concentrated on further schooling for the next three years, completing not only a master's degree but also an "Officer Senior Executive Course." His last assignment with the PNP was as secretary of its office in Southern Tagalog.

Joker asks: On whose side is Blas?

SEN. Joker Arroyo yesterday warned opposition Sen. Blas Ople to consider "very seriously" his proposal to stop immediately the Senate inquiry into Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged criminal activities.

Such a move would "immeasurably prejudice" Lacson, Ople's partymate, said Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, one of the committees on top of the investigation.

"One starts to wonder, on whose side is Senator Ople?" Arroyo said.

Another Ople ally, Minority Leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., is also opposed to ending the hearings as it "might give rise to suspicion that we are protecting certain personalities."

Ople, who has twice called for the termination of the Senate hearings, intends to formally file a Senate resolution to that effect today.

The Senate committees on public order and illegal drugs, national defense and security as well as the blue ribbon will resume their joint hearings today on allegations that Lacson made hundreds of millions of dollars from drug trafficking, money laundering and kidnapping for ransom.

In a statement, Arroyo warned Ople that "all of the evidence so far presented before the tri-committee are against Senator Lacson."

If the hearings are terminated now, the committees would be basing their evaluation and findings solely on the evidence that have been gathered so far.

Lacson has yet to air his side so that Ople's proposal would in effect foreclose Lacson's right to present his side, said Arroyo.

The committees have so far heard the testimonies of military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus, ex-civilian agent Angelo "Ador" Mawanay and ex-narcotics undercover agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong.

Ong will continue her testimony today.

Also expected to testify is Danny Devnani, the Indian national who claims that Lacson and ousted President Joseph Estrada were involved in kidnap-for-ransom activities.

Pimentel clarified that his statement the other day warning against giving false testimonies before the Senate inquiry on the Lacson allegations was "directed at everyone," not just at Ong and the other witnesses. *Christine Avendaño*

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ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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EDITORIALS

Closing ranks

LAST Thursday, after former narcotics agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong appeared before the Senate and testified that Camp Crame may have practically been the center of illegal drug trade in 1998, incumbent Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza immediately took offense.

"For Ms Ong to accuse the PNP of being behind the trafficking of illegal drugs...is a sweeping indictment of the entire 115,000-strong national police," the country's top cop said in a statement. Ong's "very sweeping accusation undermines the entire national police institution and sets back whatever gains we have achieved so far in rebuilding a publicly acceptable image and reputation."

Director General Mendoza has a point, but as in the case of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Senate, which have found themselves at the receiving end of criticism in recent weeks, that point has been lost in the unthinking, headlong rush to defend the institution.

This close-the-ranks instinct was most pronounced during the first joint Senate hearings on the allegations by military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus against Sen. Panfilo Lacson. When Senate majority leader Loren Legarda ill-advisedly raised the issue of the alleged sale of smuggled cell phones and then failed to convince witness Angelo "Ador" Mawanay to de-link her from it, the Senate erupted in an explosion of wounded pride. Almost to a solon, the senators closed ranks, defending Legarda by defending the dignity of the "august chamber" or its hallowed traditions.

This same close-the-ranks survival instinct has been in evidence too in the way the military establishment has sought to answer the allegations of AFP-Abu Sayyaf collusion raised by Basilan priest Fr. Cirilo Nacorda.

Various military spokespersons as well as the officers under question have framed the accusations as an attack on the country's defense establishment itself. The very real sacrifices of the soldiers in pursuit of the bandits have been alluded to again and again to drive their point home. Aside from very stirring denials of guilt, the military has narrowed the issue of collusion to Nacorda's allegations alone. In spite of the testimony of some 20 witnesses during the Basilan-based hearings of the House defense committee, and in spite of various other evidence from other sources (including the statements of other former Abu Sayyaf hostages), the military has chosen to focus on Nacorda and Nacorda alone. The strategy seems to be to prove that (a) if the priest is saying the truth, then therefore the entire AFP is to blame, and (b) but he isn't, so the military is without blame.

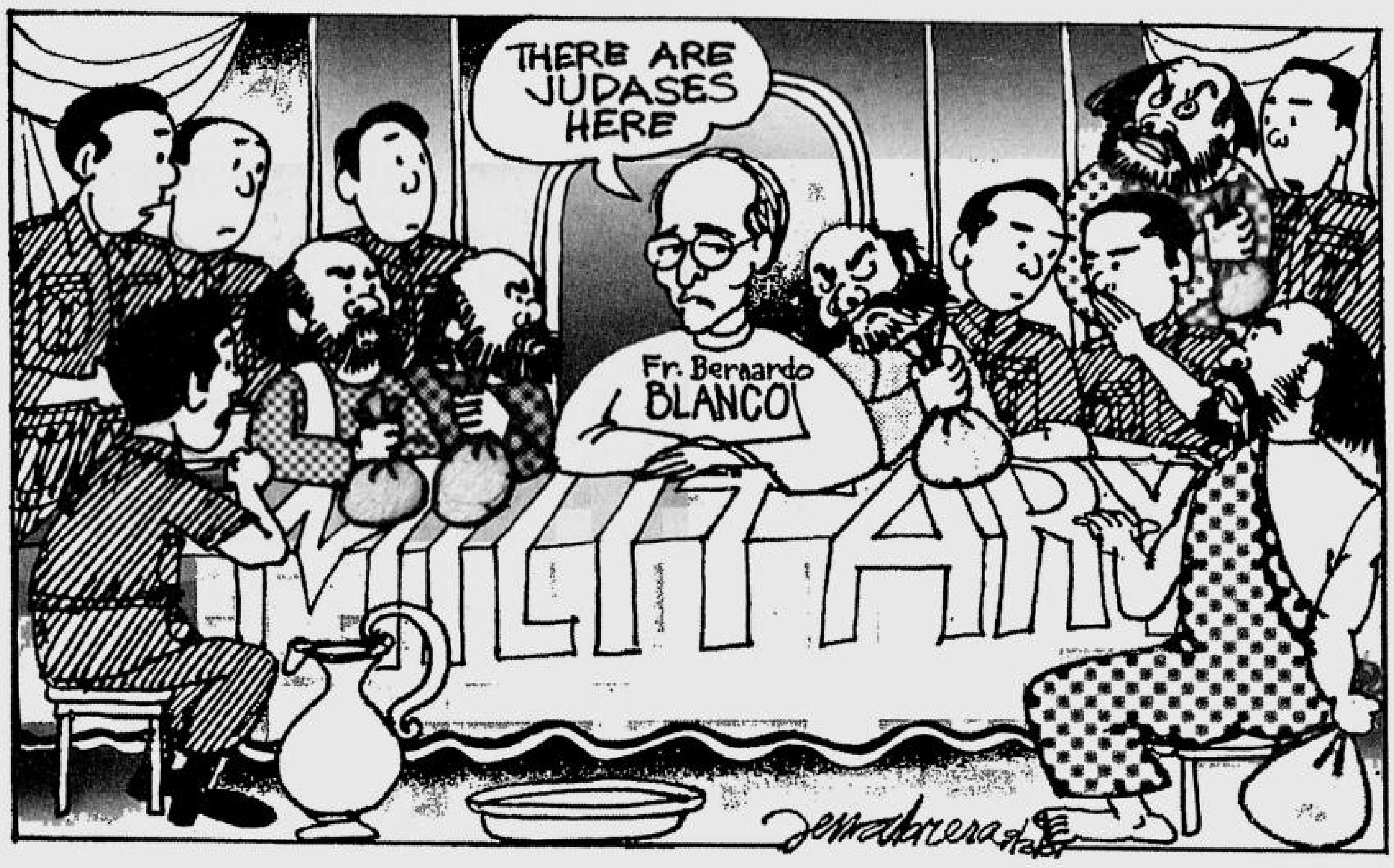
Closed minds

THIS all-or-nothing mentality is problematic at best and anti-democratic at worst. Through the vagaries of publicity, the sins of the few may be visited on the many. This is always unfortunate, but it is not a reason to receive any allegation against the individual as necessarily an assault on the institution.

Ong's allegations pointed to certain police generals. Ador's reluctant confession pertained to a specific senator. Nacorda's accusations named five military officers in particular. Without a doubt, the accusations have also cast the harsh light of suspicion on the national police, the Senate and the armed forces. That cannot be helped. But as the outcry against the senators' heavy-handedness during the first joint hearings proves beyond a doubt, shifting the spotlight from the member to the group is not the best defense.

The best defense strategy is to publicly accept that members of the institution might go astray, to vow transparency in a relentless attempt to get at the truth and, once the truth is known, to muster the political will to enforce the rules—regardless of the consequences.

To do otherwise, to meet specific accusations as a general attack, is not to deflect public skepticism about the institution in question, but to invite it.



Killing the goose that lays the golden egg

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE GOVERNMENT'S attempt to double from 10 to 20 percent the withholding tax of workers in the entertainment industry is a classic case of killing the goose that lays the golden egg. The industry is already overtaxed but the government wants to squeeze more out of it. Do you know that for every P1 you pay for a movie ticket, 52 centavos goes to the government in the form of various taxes? Only 48 centavos goes to pay for all the expenses of making and showing the movie. A producer has to earn from ticket sales three times what he spent to make the movie before he breaks even.

Do you know that for live concerts and plays, 40 percent of gross ticket sales go to taxes—30 percent amusement tax and 10 percent value-added tax? And that you have to pay the amusement tax in advance, before you even get the printed tickets to sell. You haven't sold a single ticket yet, but you already have to pay to the government one-third of the value of the whole batch. If you manage to sell only 10 percent of the tickets, you probably wouldn't even get enough to cover the tax payment.

I didn't realize that the industry was this abused until Boots Anson-Roa, Mitch Valdez and other members of the entertainment industry told us the facts of life at a media forum last Saturday. What is even dismaying is that they don't even have the satisfaction of knowing where the taxes they're spending are going. For example, there is a flood tax for every movie ticket sold, but does it really go to tame or prevent floods? If so, why are the floods getting worse in spite of the billions of pesos moviegoers have paid? And where do the rest of the taxes go?

Because of this overtaxation, producers are making less and less movies and so the government is getting less and less in taxes. From 150 films last year, the industry is down to less than half this year. Only 60 films have been produced so far this year.

Still, the government is bent on squeezing money out of the entertainers some more, like doubling the withholding tax. The reason is that the tax-collection agencies want to collect taxes the easy way. The withholding tax, the value-added tax, the amusement tax, the tax on cigarettes and liquor are the easiest to collect, so whenever the government is short of cash, these are the first taxes they increase. They are collected not by the tax collector but by the employers, the producers and the manufacturers and remitted to the Bureau of Internal Revenue. No sweat for the BIR. And in advance, too. They are paid long before they are due. It's like the taxpayers are giving loans to the government which it doesn't pay back.

And that's what the entertainment workers are protesting in the proposed doubling of their withholding tax. They can't afford to lend the government any money. Because while the millionaire movie stars are the most viable members of the industry, 90 percent of the industry workers are those who work behind the cameras and earn a pittance.

The logic of the Department of Finance is that since the 10 percent withholding tax is not enough to cover the taxes due at the end of the year, it will increase this to 20 percent so the government can immediately use it for its needs. And the taxpayers don't have to scrounge around for extra cash to pay the balance of the tax due.

But that is exactly the point. What they see, the millionaire stars, is like a movie of the whole entertainment industry. It is not real but make-believe. Most of them don't earn as much as the stars. They live a hand-to-mouth existence.

Even the compromise proposal to make only those who earn P700,000 and above a year pay the 20 percent withholding tax is out of touch with reality. Most of the workers, from stars to extras, are paid varying talent fees, usually months after a movie is finished and shown. Very few get fixed salaries. So how can anybody know beforehand who is going to earn more than P700,000 for the whole year?

* * *

Speaking of taxes, the worst fears of the Jaz Cola group of the Visayas—which was bought by the Cosmos Bottling Corp. and now being sold to the San Miguel Corp. (at 15 times the original price: buying price, P1.168 billion; selling price, P15 billion)—has been confirmed. Cosmos has no intention of paying either the P261,760,000 income tax liability due to the government, nor the P400 million balance Jaz Cola claims is still due them. On the contrary, Cosmos claims it overpaid Jaz Cola by P9.8 million.

In a comment to this column which reported the petition filed by Jaz Cola to stop the sale of Cosmos to the SMC and rescind the original sale, (As I See It, 8/27/01), Cosmos claims that:

"(1) All taxes due on the transaction have been paid. There is no assessment on the alleged tax liability.

"(2) The total purchase price of P1.168 billion has been fully paid by Cosmos.

"(3) All other amounts for miscellaneous items...have been paid."

According to an audit report by the SGV, Cosmos claims, it "even made an overpayment of P9.8 million."

* * *

Corrections: (1) The grand raffle on Dec. 8 for works of art for the benefit of the NVM Gonzalez Short Story Awards (As I See It, 8/31/01) will be held at the Jorge B. Vargas Museum, not at the UP College of Fine Arts, in the Diliman campus.

(2) My daughter said the utility man of Western Marketing who bumped her from behind with his utility cart piled high with boxes of appliances, helped her get up from the floor. (As I See It, 8/31/01) He had better manners than the store manager who tried to shirk responsibility over the incident, she said.

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

Abolish it

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I CANNOT understand why President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should dismiss outright the call by the "officers of the PNP corps" for her to order the courtesy resignation of all the officers of the PNP so that she might revamp the organization. Indeed, I cannot understand why she should buy, hook, line and sinker the idea that it is a "sinister design of unscrupulous people who...want to drive a cleavage between the ranks of the PNP to further their own ends."

Maybe it's so, but it's a very good idea. The motives of the people who are proposing it may be suspect, but the idea itself is eminently worth considering. Her own motives for calling for the Senate to continue investigating Sen. Panfilo Lacson are suspect—Erap's allies say she wants to do away with her rivals in 2004, which is possible, though Lacson flatters himself to think he is one—but her call itself is eminently worth heeding.

The President says there is no reason for all the officers of the PNP to resign because it was only the past ones who are really the bad eggs. She says the current PNP is composed of good people who showed their mettle when they heroically defended Malacañang during the May 1 riots.

Well, the defense of Malacañang is not an act of heroism, it is an act of duty. The police are obligated to come to the aid of Malacañang, symbol of the republic, when it is being threatened by a mob. Why should the President feel she owes a debt of gratitude to a police force that does what it is paid to do? Have we become so incapable of doing what we have to do that we must regard as heights of heroism people who carry out their job descriptions?

As to the culpability for drug trafficking, kidnapping and other crimes being limited only to the previous PNP officers, that is obviously selective perception. Leandro Mendoza, the current PNP chief, clearly understood the implications of Mary Ong's testimony when he protested violently against its depiction of the PNP as a den of thieves, or of drug pushers. I do not know why the reporters who heard him expostulate in this way were surprised by the vehemence of his reaction. Ong's narration of how the WPD became the headquarters of the drug-trafficking trade in this country, indeed her narration of how rival groups—syndicates, really—arose within the PNP warring on each other gangland style for control of the spoils, does not just indict the former PNP officers. It indicts the PNP as a whole.

Common sense will tell you that for the WPD headquarters to be turned into the headquarters of drug-trafficking trade, it must have required the collusion of more than just the people behind the PAOCTF. Ong is the government's own witness. They should take her revelations more seriously. If her testimony is true, you must wonder if the current PNP officers are not part of the rival group whose bitterness against the former PNP bosses stemmed far less from principle than from being fed crumbs. Reynaldo Berroya easily comes to mind, an officer whose record little inspires the kind of confidence the President seems willing to give him.

Mendoza had every reason to suppose that the bomb that Ong threw in the Senate was not just going to explode in the faces of Lacson and Reynaldo Acop, it was going to explode in their own faces as well. Which brings us to why we shouldn't want every PNP officer to tender a courtesy resignation so that the President may revamp an organization that has clearly turned into a Frankenstein monster.

I myself would go even further and propose that the PNP be abolished and a smaller new law enforcement agency be put up in its place. "Don't destroy the PNP," Mendoza pleads. Why in God's name not? Destroying the PNP does not destroy law enforcement, it gives it life—or hope at least. The PNP does not equate with fighting criminality, it equates with fomenting it. It was so before Lacson, it will be so after Lacson. I am by no means the first to propose that the PNP be abolished. Others have done so in the past in light of the tangled skein of crookedness that institution has fallen into.

The rot in the PNP has spread farther than can be solved by a mere new set of officers. Even if we did not put up a new police organization in place of it, we would be ahead in terms of law enforcement. At least we would have to deal only with one type of criminals, those who do not carry badges. But for the sake of those who truly have been faithful to their duties—who must be so few, given that the security, promotion and continued health of the foot soldier depend on his subservience to a culture that makes an initiation rite of "salvaging," vice and extortion—government can always replace it with a smaller, tighter, organization. One composed of professional, better paid and certifiably sane law enforcement agents. The last is by no means facetious. Beer bellies, which were the favorite targets of Lacson and company, are the least of the cops' problems.

This is the best time to do it. When public attention is focused on the monstrosity that law enforcement in this country has become. By all means let us hale Lacson et al. to court and punish them for their crimes. But let us not stop there. That will not solve the rot in the PNP, which festers in its every pore. Cory Aquino had an excellent opportunity before to build a newer and better police and indeed military force shortly after Edsa I, and never did it, preferring to pay her debts to the torturers that brought her to power. Ms Macapagal has an even better opportunity to do so now, having come to power without help from the police and the military—if she owes anyone, it is only civil society, which strove mightily to overthrow her predecessor. Before her is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to turn peace and order around by abolishing not just the PAOCTF but the entire PNP itself and raising a real law enforcement agency in its place.

She fails to do this, too, and she should stop complaining about foreign investors and tourists refusing to come in.

Ecumenism

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PULI, Taiwan—News accounts report that Irish priest Fr. Rufus Halley, the much loved Columban priest who was gunned down by suspected secessionists in Mindanao, was buried in Cagayan de Oro amid great mourning by his legion of Christian as well as Muslim friends and admirers. Father Halley's funeral proved to be clearly a triumph of ecumenism, and perhaps this was the message to the people that God was sending in allowing the well-loved prelate to suffer a violent death. There is the need to set aside the bitterness and hatred bred by conflicts of religions and cultures, and to cultivate instead the fruits of understanding and an atmosphere of love, peace and tolerance in the seething island.

* * *

Last Saturday, as Father Halley was being buried, a big delegation of Filipino political and religious leaders from various faiths as well as various professional leaders, was traveling the rain-swept highways of Taiwan to the city of Puli four hours away from Taipei, the capital, in another show of ecumenism. The Filipino delegation was there to participate in an international Buddhist-Christian dialogue-conference that began in Taipei and continued here. It ended with the colorful, day-long festivities to celebrate the inauguration of the brand-new US$100 million 37-story Buddhist monastery of Chung Tai Chan here in Puli City, attended by over a hundred thousand people. A massive structure of marble, granite and glass that incorporates the influences of various faiths, Chung Tai Chan with its huge gold dome reminiscent of the Temple Rock in Jerusalem is said to be the largest Buddhist monastery-temple in the world.

* * *

Led by House Speaker Jose de Venecia, who serves as Philippine chair of the Global Christian-Muslim Coalition, and his wife Gina, the delegation included Msgr. Nico Bautista of the Catholic faith, Bishop Ephraim Tendero of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, Guiling Mamondiong of the Muslim faith, Menardo Jimenez, retired big boss of GMA Network and a key Protestant leader, and Jenny Cagawa of the Unification Church. This columnist was invited to join the media that included Napoleon Rama of Bulletin, Carmen Pedrosa of Star, Alex Magno of Philippine Standard, dzRH's Cecile Guidote-Alvarez and Japanese journalist Kiyoshi Wakamiya, together with the chief of the House public information office, Noel Albano.

Our multi-faith delegation was shepherded and cared for from our arrival up to the scheduled departure today from Taipei by a moon-faced, ever-smiling Buddhist nun named Sr. His Chien Yin and her retinue of nuns as well as Buddhist lady volunteers. For many of us who have traveled far and wide, this three-day cultural visit to Taiwan has been a unique experience for many reasons.

* * *

In his dialogue with Abbot Shih Weichueh of the Chung Tai Chang monastery, a robust-looking, saffron-robed monk with a venerable aura, who is fondly called the "Grandmaster" by everyone, Speaker De Venecia stressed that the continuing dialogue between Christians and Buddhists, two of the world's greatest and oldest religions, is being encouraged by the United Nations and the ecumenism that has been elevated to an art by Pope John Paul II in his reaching out toward the Jews, Protestants and other sects. De Venecia, as international vice president of the Christian Democrats, which represents 60 major political parties in four continents, has been a tireless advocate of resolving faith conflicts through greater tolerance and respect for one another's religious and cultural beliefs; of "building bridges between civilizations" instead of violent clashes among them. In various forums he has spoken against the Muslim-Christian conflict in East Timor and a similar conflict in Kosovo and Macedonia, the inter-Christian conflict in Northern Ireland and other war-torn areas.

* * *

During the delegation's private audience with the abbot and before the international audience at the inaugural ceremonies, De Venecia thanked the people of Taiwan, many of whom were Buddhists, for welcoming Filipino workers into their Buddhist homes; he pleaded for greater care for the Pinoys' welfare. There are close to a 100,000 Filipino contract workers in Taiwan, and a number of them work as domestics and *yayas* of Taiwanese families, although the overwhelming majority work as high-end skilled professionals such as engineers and foremen in factories.

De Venecia, aware that the Buddhist groups in mainland China had sent delegations to the monastery, also called on the Buddhist leaders of both China and Taiwan to continue efforts to help ease the political tensions in the Taiwanese straits. He also asked grandmaster Shih Weichueh to look after the plight of the Christians and other religious minorities in the Chinese mainland. He stressed that such reconciliation efforts "are appreciated by Church leaders in the Vatican and by Christians everywhere."

* * *

Our schedule in Taiwan has been exhausting. We traveled the four-hour trip from Taipei to Puli City in tourist buses by night, and had to wake up early the following day to catch up with the inauguration ceremonies at the monastery. Then, back to the hotel late that day; with barely three hours of sleep, the wake-up call came at 3 a.m. for the return trip to Taipei, so we could catch our morning flight to Manila. At the vast grounds of the monastery, traffic was so hopelessly snarled that we had to walk back to our buses in our evening finery. By then, heavy rain was pouring, which the philosophical ones regarded as blessings from heaven.

Buddhism is a religion that thrives on "endless compassion" and constant purification through the negation of various desires and inclinations. For instance, the Buddhist monks, male and female, shave their heads as part of their worldly detachment. But it is obviously far more mortifying to deprive the nuns of their glorious head of hair—the crowning glory of a woman's looks. When in Rome, as they say, do as the Romans do. In the various Buddhist functions in Taipei and in Puli City, by far the most austere means of purification for the Filipinos proved to be the strict vegetarian diet served to us.

* * *

Buddhists never eat anything that is alive or has to be slain, and this is true of chicken, cow, pig or fish. This is founded in their belief in reincarnation and that the chicken or beef one is eating could well be one's mother-in-law in another life. Hence, they served us elaborate all-vegetable meals (we never knew that mushrooms could be cooked in 12 different ways) that were so excellently prepared. In many cases they looked and tasted like chicken or beef, and as any vegetarian would tell you, these are also the most healthy food one can eat. But alas, the generally carnivorous Filipinos badly missed the meat. Afterwards, business executives Fernando Olondriz Pena and Lito Jimenez went scouring Puli City late at night for a 7-Eleven, for that delicious hotdog that never tasted so good.

Please apologize

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

FOR SOME curious, even perverse reason, it was Richard Harris'—or Lerner and Loewe's—Camelot that kept on intruding into my thoughts as I scanned the place: nature at its most dismal, inflicting its own unconscionable cruelty, as if in vicious connivance with man in his inhumanity.

This was no Camelot, by order of the crown, according to a law "made a distant moon ago," even the fog must disappear by 8 in the morning. Why, there were no mornings here to speak of. And if the sun shone at all, it did so only in the few patches where its rays could stab into the thick forest cover. Even God could not order the mosquitoes, for whom He decreed darkness as the signal for them to infest the world, not to appear as early as 3 in the afternoon.

And if in Camelot the rain may never fall till after sundown, here if it rained at night, you would be constrained to scream to heaven to make it stop as it fell in torrents on the nylon canvass that was your roof, flooding the platform of bamboo slats, a few inches from the ground, that was your bed.

But even if it did not rain, it was very cold at night, to the same degree as it was hot and humid in the daytime. If sometime between dusk and dawn your mind would mercifully snap, you would be hard put to diagnose whether it was triggered by the oppressive and deathly silent darkness or the denizens of insects and reptiles that the bowels of the perpetually soggy earth had suddenly unleashed on you.

In truth there was simply not a more vile post in which to be held against your will than this hell-hole in the jungles of Binuang, in Talipao, where the Sipadan hostages were imprisoned for over four months.

Although this is not entirely true, because whenever their abductors, the Abu Sayyaf, received reports of military troops nearing the camp, they, the hostages, would be made to run seemingly endless distances through the jungle in the dead of night, to be hidden in some other "camp" as debased, if not worse.

And what were the days of those months like?

Three meals a day were a luxury; a small tin of sardines defined a feast, if by sheer will power they could ignore the stench of excrement nearby. Only rainwater was potable.

Staying alive and sane was a day-to-day challenge, with their lives hanging by the whims of their often stoned captors; mostly young, listless and hopeless young men to whom the guns they were carrying were either toys or an assurance of the manhood that otherwise they doubted they had.

There was that one instance when Renate Wallert, already ill, was in tears as she sat huddled with husband Werner, and one of these "guards," standing a few away, suddenly fired a shot, after which all of them who were around broke into gleeful laughter as she slumped into her husband's arms, crying hysterically. It was a prank that only the devil himself could have thought of.

And through it all, mocking their misery, were the ever-present images of their own Camelots: the food most of all, the air conditioners and the heaters, and all the thousand and one conveniences of the countries halfway around the world that they came from: France, Germany, Finland, South Africa. The Malaysian hostages suffered as much, because even if their country is just an hour by boat away from Jolo, it is as far removed as the Petronas twin towers from the fastnesses of Mt. Talipao.

The nine Malaysians and two Filipinos were employees of the diving resort in Sipadan island from which they and the 10 European tourists were abducted by the Abu Sayyaf on April 23 last year.

Werner Gunther Wallert, his wife Renate and son Marc of Germany; Carel and Monique Strydom of South Africa; French-Lebanese Marie Michelle Moarbes, Stephane Loisy and his girlfriend Sonia Wendling of France; Risto Jahannen and Seppo Fraenti of Finland were professionals with jobs that paid them well enough to allow for holidays in diving resorts in exotic lands.

Their experience will haunt them for the rest of their lives, no doubt about this. But as if that were not enough, here comes the cruelest footnote of all, this careless piece of "news" that, were it not attributed to an unnamed "military official," sounded more like sleazy gossip than a matter of public concern.

Early this week a newscaster on what is known as our country's national broadcasting network, breathlessly announced that Mujib Susukan, a top Abu Sayyaf leader, had been found afflicted with AIDS.

Although it is beyond my limited comprehension. I will no longer bother to ask, obsessed as I am with enlightenment, just how this medical bulletin was acquired.

But I do wonder how anyone, not even government officials, whose pronouncements are carried by media to the ends of the earth, could be so insensitive as to speculate that Susukan could have contacted the dreaded virus from "one of the Sipadan hostages."

Please apologize to them, especially to Renate, Monique, Marie Michelle, Sonia and our own compatriot Aida Dablo, and to their countries, before they conclude that we deserve presidents who are thieves, plunderers, womanizers, gamblers and felons; police officers who are drug traffickers, smugglers, murderers, kidnappers and torturers; military officers who can be bribed to connive with bandits; election officials who can be bribed to cheat in the polls; and judges who can be bribed to absolve them, as much as, if not more than, the Abu Sayyaf deserves AIDS.

Support cha-cha, abolish the ignoble Senate

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

"LEAST government is the best government..."

I have come to embrace more closely this battle cry of Thomas Jefferson because of the disgraceful performance of the Philippine Senate since the impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada and the recent controversy over Sen. Ping Lacson. As the current crop of senatorial lords and ladies have moved into the Upper House and plumbed even lower depths in the public's esteem, they have only proved that we have too much government for the people to stomach.

It is time to chop the government down to a size that better matches the people's real needs and to reduce the burden on the people's backs so it is proportional to what the government actually delivers. Let us not have government for government's sake, and least of all, government institutions that do the nation more harm than good. In my opinion, the Filipino people should not forbear such a tainted and damaged institution as this ignoble Senate.

As a collegial body, all the senators are responsible for its success and culpable for its failures. Their continuing, collective failure diminishes each of them and all of us. The people's power is not loaned to them because of their good intentions, their good looks, or even their good natures. The honor reserved for them is the people's honor for its Senate as an office for the public good, not a platform to fulfill some senator's bald ambition or protect their self-interest.

Almost as much as the 11 villains of the Erap trial, many of the 10 who did not vote for an obstruction of justice in Erap's January, were the most infuriatingly unsenatorial and unstatesmanlike during Lacson's August, proof that the Jaworskis and Oretas are not alone with clay feet and black hearts. Do the "heroes of January" think that having made the right choice once, the people will countenance whatever outrageous foible they decide to foist on the public?

Before the people lose all faith and hope in the entire government, and flee to worse alternatives, the honorable senators should review their ignominious record and for once in their miserable public lives, act unselfishly in the public interest. Instead of preening before the cameras, they should look at themselves first in the mirror with an objective eye and ask, "Is this how a decent human being and public servant should talk and act?" Rather than the armor of conceit and a false sense of their importance, let them put on the habits of humility and realize how critically the people are watching them now.

People indeed are questioning the very wisdom of having a Senate at all, given its atrocious behavior and ineffectual deliberations. Although they are only 24 senators, the Senate is actually supported by one of the biggest bureaucracies in our government, numbering in the thousands in the Secretariat alone. But what good are they, really?

One bright light and cause for hope during last week's hearings was Sen. Joker Arroyo, standing up to Lacson's questioning of Col. Victor Corpus' legitimacy as Isafp chief. Lacson's composure, a mixture of a subterranean mastermind's opacity and a personal discipline devoid of conscience, may yet break on this rock of Erap's shipwreck. Alone among the senators this past week, Arroyo gave the best impression of using the letter of the law to uphold the spirit of truth and justice.

Corpus may not have played all his cards in the most brilliant manner, but I think most people see him as a different sort of Isafp chief from the Marcosian torturers and dictatorial dickheads that have previously run that service. He exudes sincerity and I think that most people believe he is fighting the greatest and most dangerous battle of his life against the ilk of scoundrels that have found refuge in the Senate. It is all the more perilous for him and for us because, if his charges are right, his targets have colluded with international drug rings to carry out an insidious chemical warfare against the Filipino people. He is after assassins of our future who have allied themselves to an oriental menace that brooks no borders and buys senators and presidents.

Meanwhile, a threat to reduce the budget of the Intelligence Services of the AFP came indelicately from Sen. Blas Ople at the very moment when civil society first began to perceive this arm of the armed forces as finally being on the side of the people. Like his friend Lacson, Ople is a vestigial appendix from the Marcos dictatorship. Both are evolutionary dead ends.

That this tainted and damaged Senate should have power over the purse that the House is already supposed to discharge, is a First World superfluity that we can ill-afford. Besides there is never a real debate over the substantive issue of why the budget should be so large when so much is lost to corruption anyway. The Senate is often merely another venue for official extortion. What most people do not know, is the added insult that the senators themselves are not subjected to the usual rules of audit and financial oversight like every other government body. Each senator simply signs a half sheet of paper once a month, attesting to the propriety of every financial transaction and expenditure of their office, and all is shoved under the rug, forever hidden from public view. So if you think congressmen have a lot of pork, wait till you see the pig in the Senate poke!

I have not previously supported proposals to undertake changes to the Constitution, but the Senate's record is not a matter of opinion. We can only blame January's 11 senators so much before the viability of the Senate itself as an institution needs to be questioned and reassessed. If they cannot regain the people's lost faith, then the Senate should be abolished, because it is a danger to itself and our polity. For those who may be wondering how Jefferson's tenet ends, it reads, "Least government is the best government, because then, the people must discipline themselves."

Grammatical errors

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

FROM THE LETTERS this column has been receiving lately, it seems some readers are not satisfied with just reading the news, they want the news to be written in "prim and proper" English.

Two weeks ago, a college professor sought clarification on the correct description for Filipinos of Chinese parentage—Chinese-Filipino or Filipino-Chinese? She said she and her students look to the INQUIRER as reference material for correct usage of commonly used words in English.

As explained in our Aug. 20 column, the right description, as far as the INQUIRER is concerned, is Chinese-Filipino, or Chinoy. A reader, however, believes it should be Chipino. We shall respect his opinion on this matter.

Then, a professor emeritus of English of the City University of New York who lives in Pangasinan, wrote us to express his concern "about a supremely annoying error that has disgraced your pages probably 1,000 times during the past four years."

The rest of his letter reads: "Once a month—who would care? Even once a day...But one day I counted this mistake appearing 22 times in the same issue. I hope by now you're eagerly curious to know what I'm talking about, namely the construction of the Standard English idiom (check any English dictionary) 'to avail oneself of something...'

"At least 19 out of 20 efforts by your reporters, advertisers (sometimes even columnists) end up with perverted pidgin-like constructions, such as 'avail now of this chance!' It should be 'avail yourself now of this chance!'

"I feel sorry for schoolchildren who are so misled by their beloved newspaper. I also love your paper, but since I know better, you merely irritate rather than miseducate me."

Typo errors

Last week, it was the turn of a reader who once worked with a newspaper outfit to call attention to the "increasing number in typographical errors." She is aware though that there are reporters who are not really that good with grammar, but are good at news data gathering.

She wrote "I know that the desk editors should be the experts in rewriting and correcting the grammatical errors. And then there are also the proofreaders. Anyway, what I am driving at is that there is a chain for correcting these errors, whether it be because of typing or grammar overlooks.

"The errors are sometimes glaring because they are the heads or titles of the articles. Like one which say 'urgesa.' I guess this means 'urges.' And another which says 'reads,' I guess this means 'rids.' (I can't find the exact dates of these articles now but these were just the past two or three weeks.)

"The 'billions and millions' are used interchangeably within a paragraph that I sometimes get so confused as to which is the real figure. Millions or billions? There are already too many for me to keep track of.

"I find it difficult to read an article when there are grammatical errors. It's like driving at high speed in a freeway and then getting bogged down in a pothole. I do hope you get to be able to minimize, if not totally avoid these errors."

Although this column is no stranger to complaints of a similar nature in the past, the letters mentioned stand out for the glaring errors pointed out and candid words used. The other letters were very polite, sometimes even apologetic for catching the errors.

When informed about these letters, the editor in chief acknowledged that there is room for improvement in the newspaper's compliance with the rules of English grammar. She asked me to inform the readers about the measures the INQUIRER has taken to minimize, if not completely do away with, these errors.

Assessment meeting

Every Monday afternoon, over pizza, doughnut or whatever food is available, the senior editors meet to review the editorial materials, photos and advertisements published during the preceding week.

With three decades of hands-on newspaper work to lean on, the publisher leads the discussion on the errors in, among others, the formatting of articles and photos, wording of headlines and preparation of photo captions. The scene is no different from a post-basketball game critique, with the editors taking a second look at the events that may have led to the commission of the errors in question.

Part of the agenda is the review of the analysis conducted by the newspaper's grammar consultant, Prof. Antonio Hidalgo, of the news reports, columns, features and other articles published during the past week.

Hidalgo was a campus writer at the University of the Philippines in the early '60s, where he edited the 1964 Philippinensian (the yearbook of UP graduates) and wrote essays, fiction and poetry for various newspapers and magazines in the country for many years.

He is bilingual (English and Filipino) and has published several best-selling books from 1993 to 2000. In other words, he is an expert (or *may k*) in talking about correct usage of English, which includes grammar, syntax, style and the other aspects of literary work.

Hidalgo has been given a free hand in reviewing the published articles. He is the authorized "fault-finder" of the newspaper on grammar. The scope of his review covers prepositions, tenses, choice of words, punctuation, spelling, proofreading, or anything and everything that has to do with the correct use of the English language.

Picture him as a Sherlock Holmes with a magnifying glass going line by line, word for word, through the entire text materials of the INQUIRER issues for the week (and he does this every week!), looking for the lapses, omissions and slips that proofreaders often attribute to either mental fatigue or that ever available excuse, human frailty.

After completing his eye-straining task, he isolates and reproduces the articles that contain the errors he found and makes the appropriate corrections. Then he lists down the number of errors committed in their respective categories and submits them to the publisher in time for the assessment meeting.

The three most committed errors every week involve prepositions, tenses and choice of words. At a loss on why these mistakes keep on recurring in spite of repeated reminders, some editors believe it is "culture-related" or connected with the way Filipinos think and write—they form their thoughts in Filipino and transcribe them in English.

On top of the regular weekly grammar critique, Hidalgo conducts, from time to time, seminars on correct grammar usage for reporters, editors and editorial assistants. But still, many of the grammatical errors continue to the rear their ugly heads to the chagrin of the editors and some eagle-eyed readers.

The editorial staff are hopeful that the self-criticism and continuing grammar education processes they have instituted will, one day, result in a grammar error-free newspaper. When that day comes, this column will miss the proofreading complaints of the readers.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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The courage of Mary Ong

IT took a lot of guts doing what Mary "Rosebud" Ong just did in a recent Senate hearing. She exposed the top brass in our county's police force as the main perpetrators of drug trafficking in the country. She named names, and big ones at that, in her testimony. She also revealed an intimate knowledge of the drug-trafficking network and the extent to which it has been entrenched in Philippine politics and government.

The Citizens' DrugWatch Foundation commends and supports Ong and wishes her well in her courageous exposé. And we are hopeful that this time, the full resources of government will be employed to prosecute and execute the people involved in drug trafficking, starting with all guilty police officers, government officials and politicians.

This is not the first time prominent and powerful personalities in government have been implicated in the multibillion-peso drug trafficking industry. I myself made an exposé in 1989 naming the key underworld characters at the forefront of the drug trade then, and the military and police officials, fiscals and judges in their payroll. The names may have changed but it is sad to note that the players remain the same, only this time, the police do not merely give protection to drug traffickers but are themselves the people behind drug trafficking.

Our office has received a lot of calls, mostly from frustrated parents, harping on the futility of the government's anti-drug effort, especially considering the police's involvement in the drug trade. And we always tell them that our best defense is education. We have to continue being aggressive in educating our children about the dangers of illegal drugs and the effects of drug abuse on families and on the nation.

We believe that reducing the demand for drugs is just as much a solution as the prosecution and execution of drug traffickers. The movement for demand reduction starts in our homes, communities, schools and workplaces. DrugWatch has continuously been conducting free drug education seminars all over the country. Your readers who wish to avail of this opportunity may call us at 5251101 and look for Jeffrey or Tony.—**ERNESTO F. HERRERA, founding chair, Citizens' DrugWatch Foundation Inc., 2nd Floor, Marbella Manila II Bldg., 2071 Roxas Blvd., Manila**

LETTERS

PNOC-EDC studies address public concerns

IN CONNECTION with the article titled, "Bacolod diocese to ask SC to repeal Mt. Kanlaon law" which was published on Aug. 29, we would like to inform your readers that we have been made aware of the Bacolod diocese's concerns on our geothermal project at the edge of Mt. Kanlaon Park. We respect the position of the diocese and we understand its concern for its flock.

The position of the diocese highlights the current need of the public for additional focused information on the environmental dimensions of the project. We are now addressing this need by the ongoing information drives of the company. Secondly, we are awaiting the terms of reference for the biodiversity study being required by the secretaries of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Energy. As required by the regulatory agencies and as agreed with the concerned NGOs, the study shall be conducted by third-party experts. The objective of the third-party study is to identify additional measures to complement our approved environmental management plan in order to enhance the protection of the park.—**SERGIO A.F. APOSTOL, chair and president, PNOC Energy Development Corp., PNOC Energy Companies Bldg., Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City**

Abalos has priorities correct

KUDOS to Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos for remaining stouthearted and cool despite the obstructionist tirades of some local government units which have no regard whatsoever for the Solid Waste Management Act recently signed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Abalos is being blamed by the very same people who were not able to solve the garbage problem in Metro Manila during their incumbency as head of the MMDA. At least, Abalos started on the right foot. He sought the support of broadcast journalists to educate the public on the importance of disposing garbage before diseases like hepatitis B-C, dysentery, typhoid fever, cholera and other food and water-borne illnesses spread in epidemic proportions.

I am confident that Abalos will succeed where everybody failed, simply because he is one public official who will not place the cart before the horse.—**ERICK SAN JUAN, Suite 1402, 1st e-Bank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City**

Is the SSS mess over?

THE STANDOFF in the Social Security System has finally come to an end. Malacañang gave in to the demand of the employees for the ouster of Vitaliano Nañagas II. Corazon dela Paz now comes in as SSS president.

But is the mess really over? The Alert and Concerned Employees for a Better SSS engaged in protest actions since May this year to seek the relief of Nañagas. Its members were said to be against the "privatization" of the SSS. When Nañagas affirmed that there would be no "privatization," the demand for his ouster was shifted to "poor management style."

There is more than meets the eye behind this controversy. Note that an investigation is ongoing regarding alleged malfeasance committed by the previous executives of the SSS. The SSS, being one of the major investors in the equities market, was reported to have lost heavily when it purchased shares in Belle Corp. Those questionable transactions were said to be entered in behalf of then President Joseph Estrada.

I am not against the right to assemble or the right to express one's self. I'm not even against the right of public sector employees to go on strike. But I believe this right was abused. Some people are obviously pulling strings and some people are willing victims. Malacañang must conduct a deeper, no-nonsense investigation. Someone gambled with the people's money and lost. Someone must answer for this.—**RAMIL D. LOPEZ, 136 Jasmin St., De Castro Subd., Paso de Blas, Valenzuela City**

Change not just people but policies

TALKS of a new Edsa are in the air. But what this country crucially needs is not a new Edsa but an Edsa—or its equivalent—which would change not only the leadership but also, and more important, the nation's policies.

In fact, if policies can be changed without an Edsa, I would welcome it.

The first Edsa replaced Ferdinand Marcos and company with Cory Aquino and company but the policies dictated to Marcos by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund remained intact. When Fidel V. Ramos took over, the same WB-IMF policies not only survived but were even reinforced by the emergence of the World Trade Organization. Joseph Estrada merely inherited and pursued relentlessly WB-IMF-WTO prescriptions.

Then Edsa II came, replacing Estrada with Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. But only Estrada was replaced. The WB-IMF-WTO policies remain in full force and effect to this very day. The entry of the McKinsey Global Institute as an imported think tank is likely to reinforce these policies. The shorthand for these policies is globalization.

More than 15 years after Marcos, the poor in our country have not only become poorer; they have also become more numerous. In fact, as demonstrated by Edsa III, more desperate—almost at the breaking point.

The next Edsa should not only change faces, if it is worth staging, it should also change policies.—**AMADO GAT INCIONG, Unit 301, Union Square Condominium, 145 15th Avenue, Cubao, QC**

Will other agencies follow LTO, NBI lead?

IT is heartening to note that, as reported, both the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) have considerably improved their services to the citizenry. Without having to return, an applicant can wait for the issuance of a driver's license by the LTO or a clearance by the NBI.

As an ordinary citizen, I earnestly hope that other government offices will follow suit. If those two state agencies can do it, other offices in the bureaucracy can also speed up their services to the people.

Thus, the Records Management and Archives Office (RMAO) can duplicate the feat recently initiated at the LTO and NBI. Our recent experience with the RMAO, a government agency, however, reveals the undesirable practice in rendering service to the citizenry.

On Aug. 21, 2001, my wife and I went to the RMAO with a formal request for certification whether or not a rotary public in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, submitted his notarial register for 1969 showing the execution of a deed of absolute sale. For convenience, we showed a corresponding draft of the desired certification which is not actually needed because, the office had a prescribed form.

We presented our request at the glass-enclosed counter on the ground floor, which bears the inscription: "receiving" in bold letters at the upper part of the enclosure. The lady at the counter, after cursorily going over it, directed us to go up to the second floor for the stamping on our request with the mark: "received."

This got our goat because we, already septuagenarians, were made to go up to the second floor by the stairs, merely for the stamping. Subsequently, we were given a claim sheet showing the date, which was a month later, when we can come back for the requested certification. To me, the job of stamping "received" is ministerial in nature and can be done at the receiving counter, saving the public, especially the aged, the trouble of going up the stairs.

Meanwhile, we asked ourselves why it takes the RMAO one month to issue a pro forma certification. We can only conclude that the RMAO lags behind many kilometers away from the LTO and NBI in terms of service to the public.—**FACUNDO S. TALLO, 182/6 North 1st St., Angela Village, Talon, Las Piñas City**

Unjust vexation

I AM not Ador Mawanay.

But just like him, I am not handsome although instinctively, by human nature, I would say I am also not ugly.

What I do look like has nothing to do with what I am. People have no right to make fun of me just because they do not like my distorted face or they want to earn a living. That's a foul shot. That's inhuman.

I would like, therefore to appeal to Jess Abrera and P.M. Junior and to other supposedly educated and civilized people to stop this unjust vexation that they do against Mawanay. After all, it's not comic relief.

They hurt as Adors and I puke whenever I come across with their brand of humor.—**ED N. GARIN, Barangay San Francisco, Biñan, Laguna**

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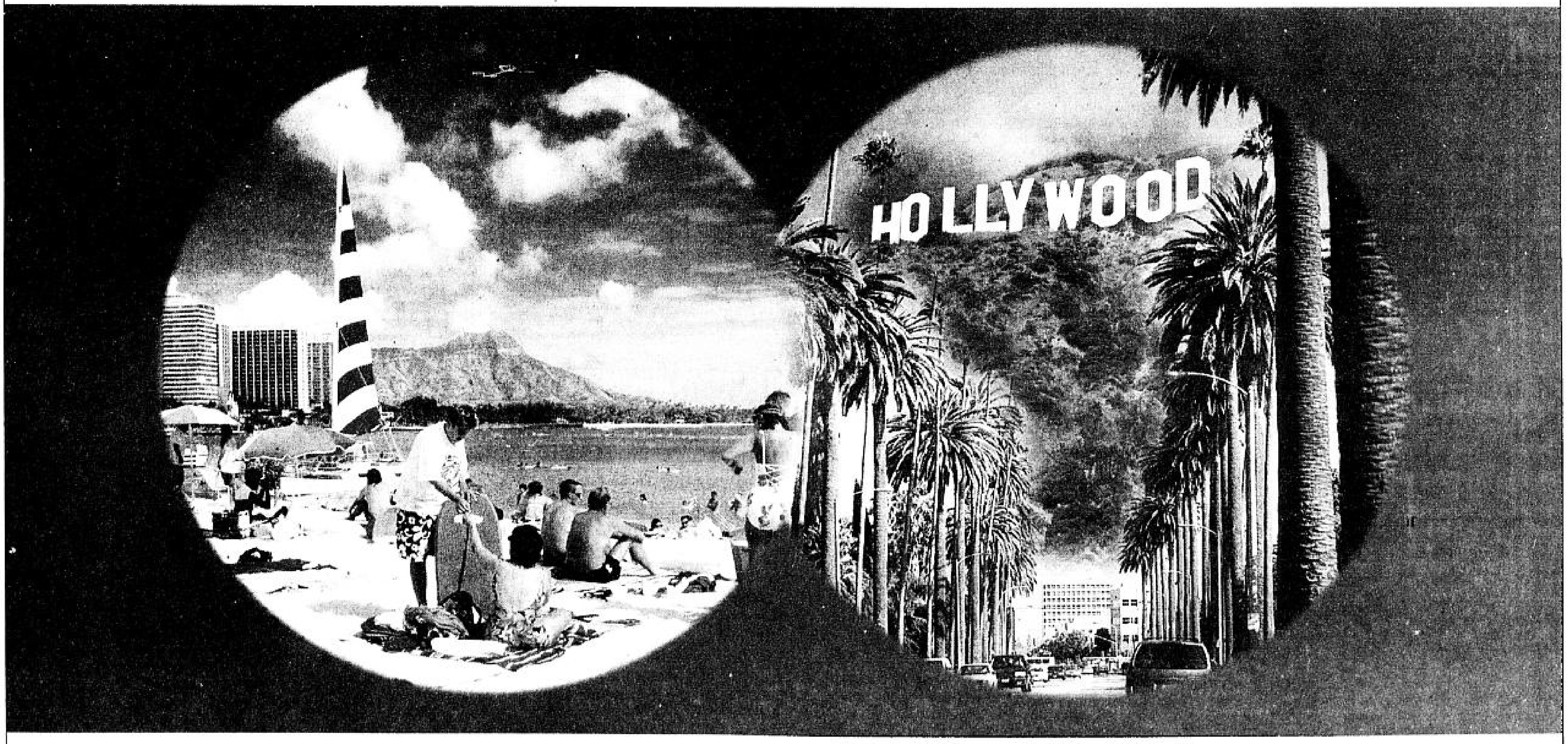

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HEARTS AND HANDS

Justice Leonor Ines Luciano, chair of the Philippine National Red Cross (second from left) inducts INQUIRER chair Marixi R. Prieto (fourth from left) as a member of the PNRC Board of Governors, as governors Roilo J. Golez, Princess Diamond Pangarungan, Henry Dy, Lina Aurelio, Rosa Rosal, Lorna Kapunan, Mario R. Nery and Leonardo Fugoso look on.

House seeks ₱3B vs drugs

By Rocky Nazareno

THE HOUSE committee on dangerous drugs is seeking a P3-billion fund exclusively to help the government fight "the bane of the Filipino youth."

Committee chair Rep. Antonio Cuenco of Cebu noted the "government should place more focus on the campaign against drugs, which has become "our no. 1 problem, not the Abu Sayyaf, volcano eruptions or kidnappings."

Cuenco said that while the Philippine National Police has been allotted an operating budget of P23 billion, it was not clear how much of this would go to the war on drugs.

At the Department of Health, Cuenco said P72 million will go to the Dangerous Drugs Board, of which P52.8 million will be for its operations.

"How can we win the fight against drugs with that kind of budget?" Cuenco asked.

He said the money allotted to anti-narcotics campaigns was too small to even allow for the establishment of an ample reward system for informants who tell on drug pushers.

At the Department of Justice, only P24.2 million will be set aside for the rehabilitation of drug addicts, Cuenco said.

Cuenco said he will try to convince the House appropriations committee to "exclusively allot P3 billion for the government's anti-drug campaign to be divided equally among the PNP, DDB and the National Bureau of Investigation."

Governor survives ambush

By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAMP SIONGCO, Maguindanao—Gov. Andal Ampatuan survived an assassination attempt yesterday in which eight persons, including a town councilor, were wounded, the military here reported.

The slay try, the third on the governor this year allegedly by separatist Moro rebels, occurred in Shariff Aguak town around 8:45 a.m.

Two government soldiers were wounded in a separate firefight following the ambush.

Maj. Julieto Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said Ampatuan was unhurt.

A military Hummer jeep in Ampatuan's seven-vehicle convoy was burned after being hit by four rocket-propelled grenades fired by the suspects who were hiding on both sides of the highway.

One of Ampatuan's security escorts was reportedly killed but Ando and Norie Unas, Ampatuan's spokesperson, denied this.

Two helicopter gunships were quickly dispatched to the ambush scene where they fired rockets at the fleeing suspects.

"We have no body count but at least six rebels were killed and about a dozen others were wounded whom we saw being carried by their companions," Ando told the INQUIRER, quoting an initial report from the field.

Ando said Ampatuan and his escorts were heading toward Cotabato City when about 30 suspected members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front waylaid them.

"The governor was unharmed but the rear of his car was hit by rocket grenades," Unas told Radio dxMS.

Four rocket grenades also hit the Hummer, which was two cars in front of Ampatuan's black Revo, wounding the security escorts.

At the same time, Ando said, another band of Moro rebels attacked an Army base to prevent its troops from coming to the rescue of the ambushed convoy.

A 10-minute gun battle between some 15 suspected MILF rebels and elements of the 37th Infantry Battalion left two government soldiers, Sgt. Peche Juanites and militiaman Bobby Santuwa, wounded.

Unas identified the wounded in the attack against Ampatuan as Shariff Aguak Councilor Dainga Ampatuan, municipal employee Yu Kutob, Cafgus Samal Lasam, Datu Baba, Ali Radjak and Samal Lasam, and Army escorts Sgt. Alfredo Bianito and Sgt. Aniego, both of the 37th IB.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu denied his group was behind the attack.

"We had nothing to do with it," Kabalu told the INQUIRER.

Yesterday's ambush was the third against Ampatuan this year. On April 17, his convoy was ambushed in Barangay Baka, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao while he was on the campaign trail. Five civilians were killed in that ambush.

On July 3, Ampatuan's convoy was approaching Quirino Bridge near Cotabato City when it was attacked, resulting in the death of one of his escorts.

The incident also triggered a fire that gutted at least 26 houses.

Abat bats for Cha-cha

By Carlito Pablo, Martin P. Martin and Christine Avendaño

MALACAÑANG appears wary of this latest blandishment from Congress. Senators are divided on the issue.

But the recurrent attempt to amend the country's 14-year-old Constitution, with a "sweetener" to extend the term of President Macapagal-Arroyo, has a way of taking on a life of its own.

Yesterday, the man who first openly called for the withdrawal of military support from jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada has added his voice to calls for Charter change, in the interest of setting up what he described as a "democratically authoritative" government.

Retired Gen. Fortunato Abat, in a position paper, argued for the convening of a constitutional convention that would rewrite the 1987 Constitution and create a "federal state under a parliamentary system of government."

Abat, a former defense secretary and one of the most respected former Army commanding generals, said this move must be undertaken "soonest" in order to lay down the structure of a government that is "democratically authoritative and publicly responsible."

Speaker Jose de Venecia started the Cha-cha ball rolling again when he personally endorsed last week stray calls for Charter change to, among other things, effect a shift to a parliamentary system.

This was promptly taken up by Biliran Rep. Gerardo Espina of the Nationalist People's Coalition, with a nod to Malacañang.

Espina proposed to make the amendment effective in 2007, thereby ensuring the extension of Ms Macapagal's term which expires on 2004.

But Malacañang appears not to think much of what it called a "sweetener."

Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday the Palace was against any move to amend the Constitution "at this time."

"The President feels that moves to amend the Charter at this time, and even in the next few years, is unnecessary as it will only distract Congress from its more urgent work," Tiglao told reporters.

Priest disowns 2 witnesses

By Julie S. Alipala-Inot
PDI Mindanao Bureau

LAMITAN, Basilan—Fr. Cirilo Nacorda on Saturday denied being behind the two witnesses who accused Gov. Wahab Akbar and Mayor Inocente Ramos of conniving with the Abu Sayyaf before the House committee on national defense on Aug. 24.

Nacorda, in an interview with the INQUIRER, admitted, however, that he had tried to convince one of the witnesses, Ruben Abdusalam, to be one of 23 witnesses to testify in a House executive session.

"I heard that he (Abdusalam) wanted to be an independent witness and that he wanted to make his statements in the presence of (Basilan Rep. Gerry) Salapuddin," Nacorda said.

"This is just a presumption, but I heard they were Salapuddin's witnesses. They were not my witnesses," Nacorda said.

He said the two witnesses are now in the custody of Congress.

Nacorda blamed a television reporter for naming Akbar and Ramos as among those who allegedly colluded with the Abu Sayyaf to let the bandit group and some of their hostages escape a tight military cordon.

"I did not mention any names because I didn't have enough evidence. But Aladin Bacolodan (of ABS-CBN) made it appear that I had already named the two government officials. He even flashed videos of the two," Nacorda said.

Akbar's lawyer, Robert Buenaventura, said they are filing perjury charges against Abdusalam and the other witness, Tiraul Ukalib, for the statements they made before the House committee on national defense.

Ramos said he might also file charges against the two witnesses.

"I will sue them. They are police characters here. I believe they were paid by somebody," Ramos said.

Akbar and Ramos were alleged to have entered the Jose Ma. Torres Memorial Hospital at the height of the June 2 siege of Lamitan when money was supposed to have changed hands to allow the cornered Abu Sayyaf to escape.

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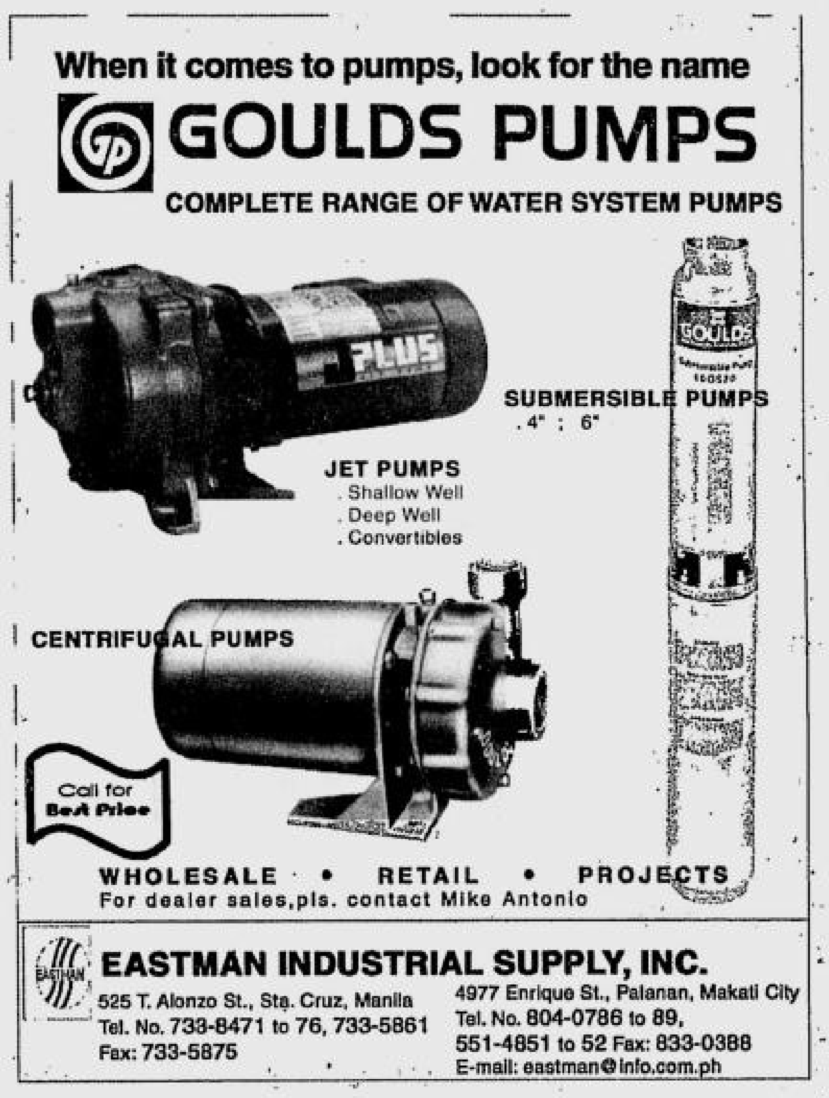
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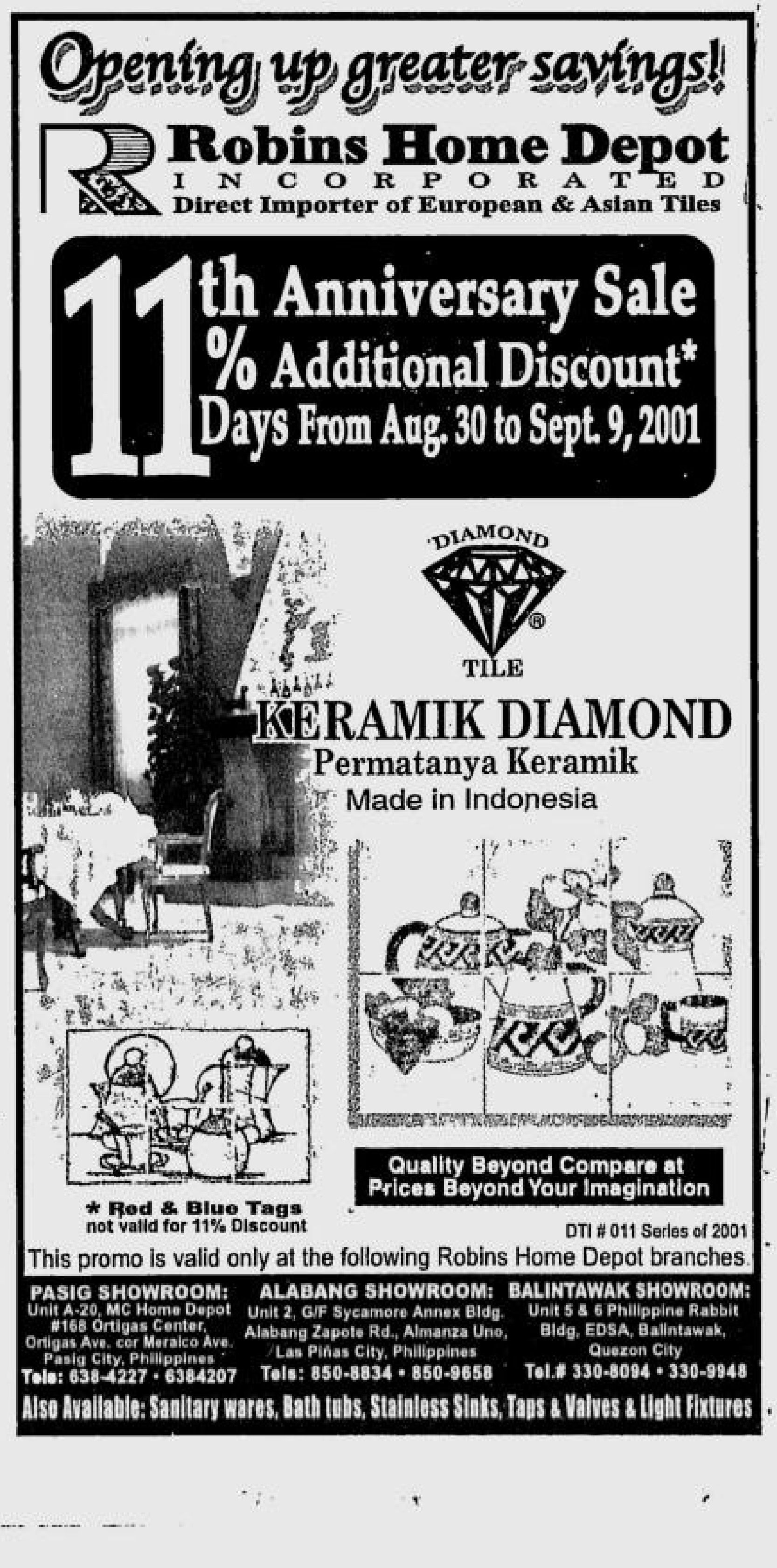
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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

SOOTHING SEA GHOSTS REUTERS

A Taiwanese man pushes a burning floating lantern out to sea off the island's northern port of Keelung in commemoration of the traditional Chinese "Ghost Festival" Sept 2. Chinese believe the festival comforts the spirits of ancestral fishermen who perished at sea over the centuries.

36 killed in Indonesia head-on train collision

JAKARTA—At least 36 people were killed and another 64 were injured after two trains collided head on at a station in Indonesia's West Java province Sunday, a railway official said.

Rescue workers were still at the scene trying to retrieve bodies and hoping to find any other survivors from the crash, which has been blamed on a conductor who was killed in the tragedy.

"Up until 12:45 (1:45 p.m. in Manila) 31 people were killed and 64 people were injured," a spokesperson for state railways company PT Kereta Api Indonesia told the private ElShinta radio station.

Gatot Wibowo added that a further five bodies remained in the wreckage and that workers were still trying to retrieve them.

Three hospitals in Cirebon said they were treating 41 people between them and that many others had already been allowed to leave after receiving treatment.

The two trains—the Cirebon Express and the Empu Jaya coming from Jakarta and bound for Yogyakarta, Central Java—collided at the main station of the coastal city of Cirebon at 3:45 a.m., he said.

"It looks like the results of human error... the Empu Jaya ignore signals and entered the station without reducing speed," Wibowo said.

He said that the conductor of the Empu Jaya might have been "sleepy," adding that the conductor and his assistant were among the fatalities.

Empu Jaya rammed into the Cirebon Express, which was trying to switch track at the station.

The Antara news agency quoted the head official at Cirebon station, Bidjak as saying that the Empu Jaya train had not "met procedures" while entering the station where the Cirebon Express was trying to change track.

Bijak said that when the collision took place, the Empu Jaya was traveling at around 50 km an hour.

Transport Minister Agum Gumelar, who has traveled to Cirebon to inspect the crash site and visit the victims, also told the radio that "up until now, based on reports and from checks on the field, it looks like this is the result of human error." *AFP*

Deadly Tokyo fire prompts nationwide safety checks

TOKYO—Japan announced Sunday it would launch nationwide safety inspections on 6,300 buildings in an attempt to ensure a deadly fire in Tokyo that claimed 44 lives is never repeated.

Fire departments in Tokyo, Osaka, Japan's second-largest city, and other major cities will carry out the inspections on Monday, officials said, after the tragedy on Saturday, the worst such disaster in Japan for three decades.

"We will examine some 4,000 buildings in Tokyo to check if these buildings are equipped with fire safety measures and evacuation routes," said Shinji Nonaka, a spokesperson for the Tokyo Fire Department.

"If we find any deficiencies, we would immediately demand building managers improve fire safety measures," Nonaka said.

On Sunday, around 70 officers from the Metropolitan Police Department and the fire department continued their investigation into the huge explosions and subsequent blaze in Kabukicho, a well-known red light and entertainment district in downtown Tokyo.

Investigations on Saturday found the building where the 44 people died in a gaming parlor and girlie bar had only one inside stairway and a small lift.

The building was not fitted with emergency evacuation equipment such as ladders or a chute either, fire officials said, adding the owner had failed to submit proper fire prevention reports.

Two officials from Tokyo Gas Co. Ltd. also joined Sunday's investigation. The company conducted an inspection on a gas meter in the building in June, but found no fault.

Police said arson had not yet been ruled out.

"We are investigating the fire from every possibility including arson," a police spokesperson said. "We have yet to determine the cause of the fire."

Of the 44 victims—32 men and 12 women—40 had been identified by Sunday. They ranged from 18 to 46 and died mostly from carbon monoxide poisoning, police said.

More than 100 bouquets of flowers, mostly white lilies and yellow chrysanthemums, were placed on a make-shift altar near the building and some left bottled water, canned beer and cigarettes there.

Meanwhile, the Osaka Fire Department said it would inspect 2,000 buildings on Monday and the fire department in Nagoya, central Japan, said it would check 307 buildings.

"I was shocked to learn that 44 people had died in the fire," said Tadahiko Kimura, a spokesman for the Osaka Fire Department.

"This could happen in Osaka where there are some 9,000 buildings that house bars, restaurants and night-clubs," Kimura said.

The Nagoya Fire Department said it would mobilize 210 officers to inspect the buildings over one month. *AFP*

Israel turns schools into garrisons

JERUSALEM—Some 1.7 million Israeli pupils were preparing for the new school year Sunday under the protection of 7,500 police and lookouts, as well as around 1,000 volunteers, an official source said.

Israeli security officials set up a special protection network for the children that will remain in place for three days before it is loosened, the source said.

The protection measures come after 11 months of violence which have killed mainly Palestinians but have also been marked by anti-Israeli suicide attacks targeting restaurants, night clubs and school buses.

Defense Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer on Friday accused the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, assassinated by Israel last week, of planning attacks on kindergartens for the start of the school year.

"Abu Ali Mustafa was not only responsible for bomb attacks in Israel," the minister said, "he also made frightening plans to attack children of all ages, from kindergarten to high school."

The high council of Arab towns in Israel decided to observe a three-day strike to protest against schooling conditions with which some 200,000 Israeli Arab children are faced.

Some Israeli municipalities also banned children from attending their classes to protest against the poor teaching and learning conditions.

"Within two or three days, everything will fall into place. We have set up a system, which will make up for all inadequacies," Education Minister Limor Livnat told public radio. *AFP*

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Australia prepares to transfer refugees

CHRISTMAS ISLAND, Australia—Two Australian warships arrived off the coast of Christmas Island Sunday after the prime minister indicated the navy would load more than 400 asylum seekers stranded on a cargo ship off this remote island on to a navy vessel for transfer to New Zealand and the Pacific republic of Nauru.

The ANZAC frigate, HMAS Arunta, was clearly visible from the island's port and maneuvered close to the banned Norwegian cargo vessel, Tampa. The Defense Department has confirmed a second vessel, a troop carrier, HMAS Manoora, has also arrived but remains over the horizon.

The warships' arrival suggest the government is preparing for a rapid transfer of the asylum seekers to the troop carriers for transport to New Zealand and Nauru.

Earlier Sunday, Prime Minister John Howard indicated a transfer would be made from the Tampa to another ship, expressing confidence it could be done safely.

"I am not a naval expert... but I have every confidence in the A.D.F. (Australian Defense Force) and they have done these sorts of things and more difficult things than this before," he told Australian Broadcasting Corp. television, refusing to give more detail.

About 160 meters long, the 9,295 tons Manoora can transport 450 troops, a number of vehicles and landing craft in addition to its complement of 180 navy personnel and 4 army Black Hawk helicopters up to 6,000 km at a speed of 20 knots (23 miles per hour).

The Arunta's helicopter has been ferrying between the island's airport and the Tampa, picking up palettes loaded by soldiers with water, rations, tarpaulins and other supplies, and ferrying them to the cargo ship.

Overnight, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan criticized Australia for barring the migrants while asking other countries to take them.

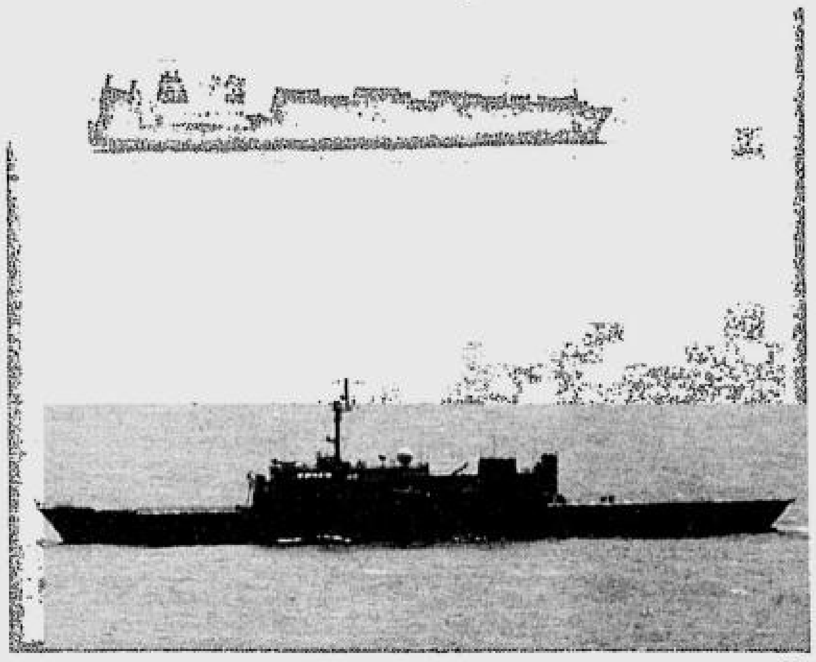
"It's not an ideal situation, and I feel for the refugees who are on this ship, in the heat, in containers," Annan said Saturday in Durban, South Africa.

"Even though some efforts have been made to improve their situation and give them some minimum comfort, this is not a way to handle a refugee situation," he said.

Some 460 migrants—most of them Afghans seeking political asylum—have languished since Monday on the deck of a cramped Norwegian ship that rescued them from a sinking Indonesian ferry.

After refusing the ship entry for six days, Prime Minister John Howard negotiated a deal Saturday to send them to New Zealand and Nauru, which have agreed to take the refugees and assess their asylum applications.

But it was unclear how and when the migrants would leave the red-hulled cargo ship moored northeast of the remote Australian outpost of Christmas Island. *AP*



AP

THE AUSTRALIAN frigate HMAS Arunta, foreground, sails near the Norwegian ship Tampa off Christmas island, Australia, Sept. 2. The ship is carrying 460 refugees and has been banned from docking on the island because the Australian government fears doing so may encourage more illegal migrants.

Who's an illegal, and who's a refugee?

By Clare Nullis

GENEVA—In an era when millions are on the move, the fate of 460 Afghans stuck on a ship near a remote Australian island has highlighted the dilemma of deciding who is an illegal migrant wanting an easier life and who is a refugee fleeing in fear.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees on Friday urged Australia to let the Norwegian-registered ship Tampa land on Christmas Island after its journey from Indonesia for "humanitarian reasons."

The agency steered clear of adding political fuel to the fire by pronouncing which country had a legal obligation to take them in, but issued a plea that the boat people should not be cast as villains.

"It is well to remember what the conditions are like in Afghanistan," said UNHCR spokesperson Ron Redmond. "The country has been plagued by 22 years of war, drought, famine and displacement," he said, describing it as "an impossible situation."

The standoff in the Indian Ocean coincided with a further clampdown by Afghanistan's hard-line Islamic rulers, who closed the offices of two Christian relief organizations Friday and expelled their foreign workers. The ruling Taliban have detained staff from a German-based group for allegedly trying to convert poor Afghans to Christianity. Preaching Christianity carries the death penalty for Afghans.

The Taliban stand accused by the United Nations and Western governments of stamping on fundamental freedoms and denying women basic rights like education and employment.

The worsening situation has led to an upsurge in the number of people trying to flee. Last year, Afghans applied for asylum in at least 68 countries across the world. In the past five years, the number of asylum requests in Europe has tripled to 34,000, with Germany accounting for about one third of them.

But with European countries shutting their doors to would-be refugees, increasing numbers have made their way to Australia and North America. According to UNHCR figures, there are a total of 4,300 Afghans in the United States and 3,600 in Australia.

This is in addition to the 5 million displaced within Afghanistan and living in dire conditions in neighboring Pakistan and Iran.

On face value, many Afghans would appear to meet the 1951 refugee convention's definition of a refugee as having a "well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion."

But in practice, according to refugee workers, Afghan migrants face increasing hostility, with reelection-hungry politicians and mass media accusing them of trying to tap public benefits and enjoy an easy life at the taxpayer's cost.

The Australian government—which last year granted refugee status to 92 percent of the Afghans which applied—typifies the hardening attitude, according to human rights campaigners.

"They have prevented a boat load of people who would probably be granted refugee status from reaching their territory," said Rachael Reilly, refugee policy director of Human Rights Watch. "That is a very cynical move and they are violating their obligations under the 1951 convention."

"The fundamentals of this debate is that it is extremely likely the people on the boat have fled persecution, considering the record of the Taliban," Reilly said in a telephone interview.

As Prime Minister John Howard gears up for national elections in November or December, his conservative coalition is facing growing community resentment over the rising tide of asylum seekers. In two recent state elections, Howard's coalition lost substantial support to the new One Nation Party, a right-wing, anti-immigration party, started by former fish and chip shop owner, Pauline Hanson. *AP*

FBI bungled chances to get spy, says report

WASHINGTON—The US Federal Bureau of Investigation bungled opportunities to catch veteran counterintelligence agent Robert Hanssen as he spied for Moscow before he finally was arrested in February, a newsweekly reported Saturday.

US News and World Report, in a story for its Monday edition, said the FBI may have missed warning signs about Hanssen, including reports he had software on his computer that allowed him to crack other agents' passwords, and his five-day suspension for throwing a female colleague to the ground during a dispute in 1993.

Hanssen also had a habit of showing up unannounced at intelligence briefings at both the FBI and the National Security Agency, the newsweekly reported.

FBI agents also spent a considerable amount of time investigating the wrong people, the magazine said.

"We just dropped the ball so many times, you are embarrassed by it," Edward Curran, a retired FBI counterintelligence agent, told US News.

Hanssen pleaded guilty in July to charges of spying for Moscow and will spend the rest of his life in prison under a plea bargain that spares him the death penalty in exchange for his cooperation with investigators.

The 57-year-old senior FBI counterintelligence officer was accused of receiving some 1.4 million dollars in cash and diamonds in exchange for providing US secrets to Moscow starting as early as 1979.

Hanssen was arrested February 18 in a sting operation after dropping a batch of documents at a location agreed by his Russian handlers in a public park in Virginia. *AFP*

Archbishop's wife: No regrets about marriage

MARIA SUNG

NEW YORK—The wife of an African archbishop who violated his church vows by getting married said she had no regrets.

"We are an eternal couple, no matter what," said Maria Sung, arriving in New York on Saturday, days after she and Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo parted ways.

Sung, 43, and Milingo, 71, married in May in a group ceremony in New York led by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, head of the South Korea-based Family Federation for World Peace and Unification Movement.

Threatened with excommunication, Milingo announced in late August that he was heeding the Pope's appeal to return to his church and embrace the vow of celibacy required of its priests. Weeks after leaving Sung, he met with her Wednesday and told her he would not stay married to her.

Speaking through a translator, Sung told reporters Milingo had told her he would be with her in her heart.

"I don't have any problems with his decision because he loves the Catholic Church so much," Sung said. "I believe his being separated from the Catholic Church would have been a greater pain than being separated from me."

The Vatican has not said what Milingo will do now that his marriage is over. Even before the marriage scandal, Milingo had problems with the church.

In 1983, the pope brought Milingo to work at the Vatican. Milingo had been in Zambia, where he led the diocese of Lusaka. But last year Milingo was removed from his Vatican post dealing with immigrant issues after he attracted thousands of people from across Europe seeking cures for cancer and AIDS. Milingo has also performed exorcisms.

Sung had no definite plans for her future, saying she was considering her options. *AP*

Thai PM wants to soften crackdown on nightclubs

BANGKOK—Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said the government should compromise over a controversial social order campaign that is forcing Thailand's freewheeling nightspots to keep legal opening hours, newspapers reported Sunday.

Bars and nightclubs used to staying open until 3 a.m. or later have been forced in recent weeks to close by 1 a.m. or 2 a.m. Bar girls and nightclub owners say their earnings have been slashed and have threatened to stage a protest rally in Bangkok.

"Social order is a must, but there must be a well-balanced policy which minimizes the impact on affected industries and ensures a peaceful and orderly society," Thaksin was quoted as saying by the Bangkok Post newspaper.

Thaksin said the policies of Interior Minister Purachai Piemsomboon, who has spearheaded the campaign, "should be adjusted to ensure a balance. What we do isn't always right."

Purachai blames late night revelry for social ills like teenage sex, drugs, crime and vagrancy. His campaign has been popular with many Bangkokians, with one opinion poll showing more than 80 percent supporting efforts to stop minors frequenting bars.

"Purachai's stance is nothing new. The relevant law is some 35 years old. But his commitment is unprecedented," Sen. Thongbai Thongbao, a prominent lawyer, wrote in the Bangkok Post Sunday.

Police with sniffer dogs have raided night clubs, rounding up hundreds of revelers and testing them for drug use. The city's many pink-lit bars with dancing girls have been made to close on time.

But Sanoh Thienthong, a powerful faction leader in Thaksin's Thai Love Thai party, voiced opposition to the tough policy Friday, saying Purachai was threatening the livelihoods of "millions" of nightworkers around the country and should be more flexible.

The Thai capital in particular has a thriving night life, not just in bars and clubs but also on streets where food and drinks stalls spring up on the edges of night markets. Vendors say they are also suffering from the clampdown.

Purachai has estimated that Bangkok has more than 20,000 bars, nightclubs, massage parlors and music arcades, frequented by foreign tourists and Thais alike.

But the state earns less than $11,000 from one-time registration licenses from these places, Purachai said last week, adding that trillions of baht goes into "the pockets of few influential figures who run such places" without paying taxes.

Purachai wants to set up a small number of night-spot zones in Bangkok, where bars and clubs would be allowed to stay open late. *AP*

Vajpayee shuffles Cabinet

NEW DELHI—Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee reshuffled his cabinet on Saturday in an effort to burnish the government's image and speed up economic reforms.

Vajpayee's coalition is reeling from a series of scandals, ranging from the resignation of his defense minister amid accusations of corruption to revelations of stock-market rigging and major losses in India's state-run mutual fund.

Junior Minister for Disinvestment Arun Shourie, who has been pushing for speedier privatization of state-run firms, was raised to cabinet rank at a swearing-in ceremony at the presidential palace.

His promotion came on the day Singapore Airlines said it was withdrawing from a consortium bidding for control of state-run Air India because of opposition to the privatization program.

Singapore Airlines, which had bid with India's Tata group for a 40 percent stake in Air India, said in a statement it was not confident of playing a "useful and effective role" given the "intensity of opposition to the privatization of Air India from various quarters."

The sale of the Air India, viewed as a litmus test of the government's determination to press ahead with its ambitious privatization program, is due to be completed by yearend.

Vajpayee also moved Satyanarayan Jatiya out of the key labor ministry after moves to ease India's rigid labor laws failed to take-off.

The government has said it will make it easier for firms to lay off workers, but has not yet brought the new legislation to parliament because of political opposition. *Reuters*

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10	9-12:00		
SEPT. 10	9-5:30	FRANCHISING A BUSINESS	770.00
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DATE	TIME	COURSE	DISCOUNTED FEE
SEPT. 4-6	9-4:00	BROILER PRODUCTION (Meat Type Chicken) (with field trip)	1,732.50
SEPT. 10-14	9-4:00	SWINE PRODUCTION (with field trip)	2,079.00
SEPT. 12-13	9-5:30	BREEDING AND CULTURE OF FRESHWATER AQUARIUM FISHES (with field trip)	1,386.00
SEPT. 14-15	9-5:30	GOAT AND SHEEP RAISING (with field trip)	1,386.00
SEPT. 14-15	9-5:30	MANAGING, CARING FOR, AND BREEDING PARAKEETS AND LOVE BIRDS (with field trip)	1,386.00
SEPT. 15-17	9-4:00	ORCHID GROWING AND NURSERY MANAGEMENT (with field trip)	1,732.50

FOOD COURSES

DATE	TIME	COURSE	DISCOUNTED FEE
SEPT. 4-5	9-5:30	SORBETES (Commercial Production) (with field trip)	1,540.00
SEPT. 6-9	9-5:30	COMMERCIAL BREADMAKING AND BAKERY MANAGEMENT	2,079.00
SEPT. 7	9-5:30	FLAVORED AND FORTIFIED JUICE	770.00
SEPT. 8-9	9-5:30	BASIC MEAT PROCESSING	1,540.00
SEPT. 10-11	9-5:30	PASTILLAS MAKING	1,540.00
SEPT. 10-11	9-5:30	BASIC CAKE DECORATING	1,540.00
SEPT. 12-13	9-5:30	ASSORTED BROWNIES, COOKIES AND BARS	1,540.00
SEPT. 13-14	9-5:30	INTERNATIONAL CUISINE (Asian and European)	2,310.00
SEPT. 15-18	9-5:30	COMMERCIAL BREADMAKING AND BAKERY MANAGEMENT	2,079.00
SEPT. 17-18	9-5:30	BASIC MEAT PROCESSING	1,540.00

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Africa leaders seek reparations for slavery

DURBAN, South Africa—African leaders at a UN conference on racism are broaching the delicate subject of slavery, aware that their own ancestors were involved in the slave trade, as well as being victims of it.

Demands for reparations for the slaves' descendants are gaining momentum in the United States, where high-powered and highly paid lawyers are digging the groundwork for multi-billion-dollar class-action suits.

But the African leaders at the week-long conference in Durban, South Africa, supported by Cuban President Fidel Castro, who said the search for direct descendants would be "impossible," are taking a broader view.

They believe that those countries which benefited from slavery—and colonialism—should balance the scales by returning at least some of those profits to impoverished countries to allow them to catch up.

South African President Thabo Mbeki, backed by the presidents of Algeria and Nigeria, spearheaded the New African Initiative, a merger of their original plan with a similar one proposed by Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade and presented to world leaders in Davos, Switzerland and adopted by the Organization of African Unity in July.

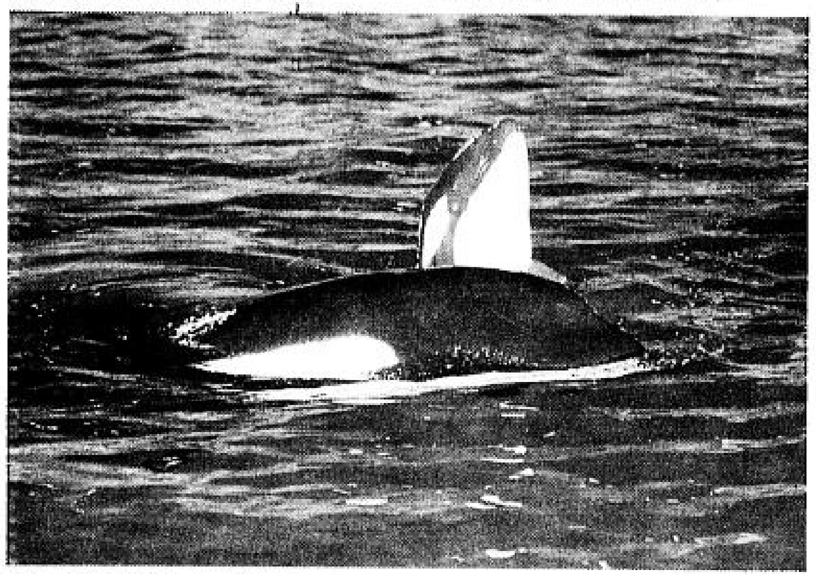
The initiative is designed to reinvigorate the continent, with African leaders themselves ensuring good governance in return for increased aid and trading opportunities.

Mbeki, opening a sidelines conference of non governmental organizations in Durban on August 28, urged "a measurable commitment within countries and across all nations that practical steps will be taken and resources allocated, actually to eradicate the legacy of slavery, colonialism and racism."

He also called for "unqualified acknowledgement of the fact that slavery, colonialism and racism represent chapters and practices in human history that cannot but be condemned unequivocally as unjust."

This leaves a loophole for developed countries which fear that an unqualified apology would open the door to lawsuits and establish a precedent for the proposed international court of criminal justice: German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer accepted his country's responsibility "to recognize guilt, assume responsibility and face up to historical obligations."

Nigerian President Olusegan Obasanjo supported Mbeki's theme, saying: "It is essential to recognize that the legacies of several centuries of racial exploitation, through slavery or slave trade or colonialism, have had deep and fundamental consequences, such as poverty, underdevelopment and marginalization." *AFP*



AP

THANKS TO ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

A baby killer whale, rear, swims close to its mother, Kasatka at the SeaWorld San Diego Sept. 1 after the 25-year-old mother gave birth to the 350-pound calf. The birth is the result of the first successful artificial insemination of any marine mammal, according to SeaWorld.

Euro-scam artists target the elderly

THE HAGUE—Despite mass information campaigns about the euro changeover, elderly residents in euro-zone countries often harbor fears about the new currency, making them a potential treasure trove for thieves.

In the last few months, several cases involving euro swindlers who stole tens of thousands of guilders (dollars, euros) from pensioners have made news in the Netherlands.

"The numbers are not overwhelming, but it does happen," Cees den Bakker of the Dutch Institute for Policing (NPI). "Fast talking con-men often target the elderly, taking advantage of their insecurity," he says.

There are several well-known scams.

In one, someone posing as a bank employee asks senior citizens for their bank card and security code, to "prepare" them for the euro introduction on Jan. 1, 2002.

If people turn over their cards, large amounts of cash are withdrawn from their accounts.

There have been about a dozen such cases in the Netherlands in the last months, even though officials have stressed the fact that credit cards will be automatically converted by banks and credit institutions.

This practice has been highly publicized, but Dutch police fear other euro swindles will increase as the euro cash transition approaches.

"Many elderly people don't trust banks and keep their savings at home," says Den Bakker. "We advise them to beware of people offering to change their guilders to euros."

People are not always aware that euro notes and coins have not yet entered circulation, since euro payments by check or credit card have been possible since Jan. 1, 1999 when the single currency was first introduced.

In June, French police uncovered a forgery operation preparing to coax mainly elderly people into exchanging their francs for 1,000-euro notes.

The European Union has never planned to issue notes of that denomination, the largest one being worth 500 euros.

On Friday, a French post office official said that con-men masquerading as postal workers were trying to swindle households in eastern regions with a euro introductory offer.

"For several days crooks have been calling people at home, offering to sell them euros so they can familiarize themselves with the new European currency," post office spokesperson Mireille Toitot said.

The report came a day after the European Central Bank's gala presentation of euro banknotes in Frankfurt, about 330 km away.

Separate incidents of con-men targeting pensioners with offers to change money for them have also been recorded in Spain and Germany.

Yet euro-zone governments have gone to great lengths to inform vulnerable people like the elderly about how the euro will be introduced.

In the Netherlands the ministry of finance set up a series of lectures to be given in retirement homes. They have also asked managers of those homes to warn their patients about the euro scams.

To reach remote villages in Portugal, the government in Lisbon has enlisted the Catholic church since priests are trusted by those who have less access to information campaigns. *AFP*

Shark attacks US boy

WASHINGTON—A 10-year-old boy was fighting for his life early Sunday, after being attacked by a shark while playing in the shallow waters of a Virginia resort town, police and hospital officials said.

"His life remains in danger," said Vicky Gray, a spokesperson for Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, where the boy, identified as David Peltier of Richmond, Virginia, received medical treatment after the attack.

The during attack, which took place in the town of Virginia Beach at about 6 p.m. Saturday, the shark bit the boy on the left leg, leaving a deep wound, officials said.

"He has lost a lot of blood," said Gray, adding that the boy was listed in critical condition, although his leg was not severed.

His parents were at his side at the hospital.

Peltier was quickly treated at the Sentara trauma center and transferred to nearby Children's Hospital of King's Daughters, which has a pediatric trauma center, according to Gray.

Police officials said the attack occurred when the boy was playing in waist-deep water and his father was swimming nearby.

David Peltier became the second US child to be brutally mangled by a shark in just under two months.

Eight-year-old Jessie Arbogast was attacked by a bull shark in knee-deep water of the Gulf of Mexico in Pensacola, Florida, on July 6.

With his right arm bitten off, Jessie lost almost all of his bood and remains in a light coma due to brain damage.

Sharks have been making headlines in the United States this year following the attack on Arbogast and a rash of less serious but aggressive assaults on surfers and swimmers off New Smyrna Beach in Florida.

Last Monday, 69-year-old William Goettel became the 10th person to be bitten on a foot by a shark in New Smyrna Beach in just eight days. *AFP*

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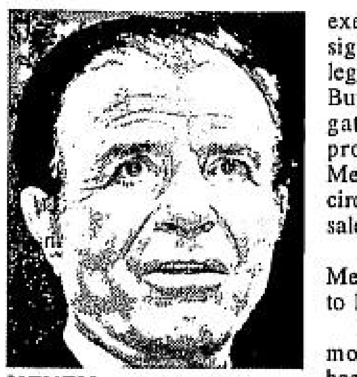
Menem's presidential hopes high despite fix



MENEM

BUENOS AIRES—Former President Carlos Menem defended himself Saturday against charges he led an arms smuggling ring, and said months of house arrest have left him yearning for freedom and a return to politics.

A federal judge placed Menem under house arrest last June 7 after accusing Argentina's flamboyant former leader of heading up a small group of former government officials who allegedly diverted weapons to Croatia and Ecuador.

The more than 6,500 tons of weapons had been officially destined for Panama and Venezuela.

"A president can't be controlling every port and airport where the arms could have gone," Menem said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press, speaking from the Spanish-style suburban mansion where he is being held.

He called the charges politically motivated, dismissing them as "an invention."

"This is a political ploy," he said, adding "this is just a plot to attack one of the most successful men in Argentina's history."

The shipments of cannons and gunpowder, which totaled more than $100 million, wound up in Croatia in 1991 and Ecuador in 1995 despite international arms embargoes. The UN embargo against Ecuador was a result of its brief border war with Peru in the 1990s, while the embargo against Croatia stemmed from fighting in the former Yugoslavia.

Menem said the sales of weapons were legally carried out and that the executive decrees he signed do not provide legal grounds for a trial. But Argentine investigators say they are probing whether Menem and his inner circle profited from the sale.

If convicted, Menem could face five to 10 years in prison.

For nearly three months, Menem has been sequestered in a lavish mansion on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. The former president said he missed being able to play golf, but said his confinement had given him extra time to spend with his beauty queen wife, Cecilia Bolocco, a 35-year-old former Miss Universe.

"When you find yourself in these situations, you miss many things, but liberty is essential to the life of men," said Menem.

Allowed only a handful of visitors, Menem said he spends his days reading biographies of former world figures like Napoleon, Alexander the Great, and Julius Caesar. Also on his list were books on Aristotle and Plato.

Reading "gives me the possibility to continue growing," he said.

With Argentina wilting under a burdensome debt crisis, Menem suggested he could have headed off the worst of rocky times with strong financial steps.

The 71-year-old former president insisted that Argentina's sluggish economy—now wallowing in a three-year recession—is mostly the result of misguided policies by his successor, President Fernando de la Rua.

He repeated his opinion that Argentina should simply adopt the dollar as its currency. *AP*

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Northern Luzon, Visayas and Northern Mindanao. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Mostly cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 26°
Baguio	Cloudy with rains	HI 24° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Mostly cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 22°
Laoag	Mostly cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Mostly cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Mostly cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Mostly cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 25°
Calapan	Mostly cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Mostly cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Roxas	Mostly cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Mostly cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Mostly cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 22°
Zamboanga	Mostly cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains	HI 33° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/09/03/01

ROUNDUP

Road fund requested

CALAPAN CITY—Oriental Mindoro first district engineer Serafin Santos has asked the Department of Public Works and Highways to expedite the release of some P1 million for the repair of a landslide-prone road in Puerto Galera. Santos said the fund is needed to repair a portion of the national highway in Barangay Villaflor in the resort town of Puerto Galera. The road has become prone to landslides due to incessant rains in the past two weeks, he said.

Joel J. Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

P25M for road secured

CALAPAN CITY—Oriental Mindoro Rep. Charity Panaligan-Leviste has confirmed that she had secured funds for the construction of a five-kilometer road leading to the Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology (MinSCAT) in Barangay Alcate, Victoria town. Panaligan-Leviste said P25 million has been allotted for the construction of the non-cemented road portion from Barangay Macatoc to the campus. She made the announcement in a message to MinSCAT officials during its 50th founding anniversary last week.

Joel J. Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

3 militiamen wounded

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Three members of the Civilian Active Auxiliary Company (CAAC) were wounded in an encounter with suspected members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in a remote village of Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte on Wednesday evening. Col. Francisco Gudani, deputy commander of the AFP Southern Command, said militiamen Ganih Gari and Jamja Ibig of the 24th CAAC and Sarabi Nassal of the 23th CAAC were patrolling in Sapa Kukuk Sipakit when they chanced upon the rebels.

Jonathan F. Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Licensing group probed

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The regional police office in Western Mindanao is checking the activities of a group reportedly victimizing security guards by selling them fake documents. Senior Insp. John Kirby Kraft, chief of the Firearms, Explosives and Ordnance and Security Agencies, said 12 security guards have been arrested for carrying fake licenses. Kraft said the guards were rendering security services for some business firms in the downtown area, when an inspection found that they were carrying spurious licenses.

Jonathan F. Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau

LTO suspends officer

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Land Transportation Office officials here suspended an LTO officer in Roxas, Isabela, for alleged dishonesty, grave misconduct and gross neglect of duty. Edgardo Abenina, LTO chair, ordered the indefinite suspension of Ernesto Fernandez, senior land transportation officer in Roxas, due to an administrative complaint filed by LTO regional director Moises Almuete. Fernandez was assigned deputy chief in Roxas after he was relieved as LTO-San Isidro district chief over alleged irregular transactions that involved extortion and illegal collection of seminar fees for tricycle drivers.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Outstanding in nutrition

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The regional nutrition council for the Ilocos has cited Pangasinan as the most outstanding province in the implementation of nutrition programs in the region. Estela Braga, provincial nutrition officer, said the malnutrition rate in the province dropped by almost 10 percent a year after the provincial government launched the Operation Dagdag Timbang. The project provides iron supplements and de-worming programs for about 3,000 severely underweight children in 64 school districts in the province.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Gov to join visitor program

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Gov. Victor Agbayani will participate in the international visitor program of the State Department of the United States in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 6-27. The program brings "leaders in government, politics, media, education and other fields to the United States from all over the world to meet and confer with their professional counterparts and to study American democratic governance." Agbayani, the only Filipino in the group, will share work experiences and ideas with 23 other leaders in Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Ex-mayor survives attack

COTABATO CITY—A former town mayor in Maguindanao survived an assassination attempt on Thursday. Supt. Amerodin Hamdag, city police chief, said Jovito Martin, former mayor of South Upi, Maguindanao, was on board his jeep when it suffered engine trouble. He said Martin alighted from the vehicle but was shot by a still unidentified man on board a motorcycle. He was hit in his leg. Hamdag said they are looking into another angle, that of Martin being hit by his own firearm, which fell and accidentally fired as he alighted from his vehicle.

Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

DENR slammed for backing Kanlaon geothermal plant

BY CARLA P. GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Environmentalist groups in Negros Occidental scored Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez for supporting a law creating a buffer zone in the Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park (MKNP), which will be open for geothermal exploration.

"He has not listened to us at all," lamented Delia Locsin, a member of the Save Mt. Kanlaon Now! Coalition.

She said she was so disappointed that Alvarez had not listened to the massive opposition to the entry of the Philippine National Oil Corp. into Mt. Kanlaon.

As environment secretary, she added that Alvarez should have studied his position further rather than immediately throw his support to the buffer zone law.

Edwin Balajadia, co-convenor of the Save Mt. Kanlaon Now! Coalition, said it would do the country good if Alvarez devoted his efforts to protecting the remaining forests from destruction rather than defending PNOC's geothermal project.

"It seems Alvarez will go to the extent of even emasculating the National Integrated Protected Area System Law and destroy one of the best old growth forests in the Philippines to enable (the) PNOC to intrude… a strictly protected area," he said.

Alvarez was the author of the NIPAs Law.

Alvarez caught the ire of environmentalist groups when he told reporters on Thursday that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources was supportive of the law that created the 169-hectare buffer zone, which will allow the PNOC to tap geothermal steam from the area.

The secretary said geothermal power is an "environmentally friendly renewable solution" to the power needs of Negros Occidental.

The PNOC plans to build wells within the buffer zone of the national park to draw steam for the 40-megawatt geothermal power plant that PNOC will build in Barangay Mailum, Bago City, about 21.5 kilometers south of here.

Alvarez said the PNOC only planned to use 30 to 50 hectares of the buffer zone. For every tree cut, he added, 24 new ones will be planted.

When asked to comment on the environmentalists' claims that the trees in Mt. Kanlaon were irreplaceable, Alvarez replied that all the trees needed to be replaced.

"Older trees are not as efficient as younger trees because they have less carbon sink," he said.

But Balajadia said their coalition disagreed with Alvarez, saying acting as a carbon sink is only one of the functions of the trees.

"Forests act as one of our life support systems, serve as habitat to biodiversity, have watershed functions and carry a very crucial role as ecosystem balances," he pointed out.

Locsin said old trees should be allowed to die natural deaths, and not be cut down, because these serve a purpose in the forest.

"Decayed parts of old trees are brought down by rain to agricultural land and enrich the soil," she said.

The MKNP, one of the few surviving national parks in the country, is home to near-extinct flora and fauna. One of the last remaining forests in Negros Occidental is found inside the park.

Environmentalist groups stressed that many century-old trees inside the park will have to be cut once the PNOC builds roads leading to the geothermal wells.

2 robbery suspects slain after van heist

BY MELVIN GASCON
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAGAWE, Ifugao—Two suspected robbers were killed while another was wounded in a shootout with policemen who were pursuing a group that held up a bank van of P8 million in Kiangan town on Friday.

The fatalities were believed involved in the holdup in Barangay Hucab in Kiangan of a Mitsubishi L200 van owned by the Land Bank of the Philippines branch here carrying P8 million in cash.

Less than 12 hours after the holdup, Ifugao policemen caught up with the suspects and engaged them in a firefight around midnight Friday at Sitio Bimpal in Barangay Nayon near Lamut town.

Chief Insp. Mario Buyuccan, provincial intelligence chief and team leader of the operation, identified the fatalities as Pilotin Canato and Noel Cacliong.

Another suspect, Bryan Ballogan, suffered minor bullet wounds and was rushed to the Ifugao Provincial Hospital here. He is now under police custody.

All three suspects are reportedly residents of Barangay Piwong in Hingyon town.

Ballogan, who said he was the group's newest recruit, told police investigators that his six companions dispersed after knowing of the police manhunt.

He said his group was part of a band of robbers which police tagged as the Ifugao Bonnet gang operating in Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya.

Pursuit operations were immediately launched after the Landbank van was found abandoned around 4 p.m. Friday along the highway in Barangay Nayon, about 3 km from the site of the robbery, Buyuccan said.

Police recovered from the clash site P2.2 million wrapped in a plastic bag which, Landbank officials confirmed, was part of the P8 million loot.

Also recovered were a shotgun, two M16 Armalite rifles, an M14 rifle, several bullets, and the suspects' personal belongings.

The suspects held up the bank vehicle at 11:30 a.m. Friday along the Nueva Vizcaya-Bontoc Road, as it was on its way back from the Landbank branch in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya.

Eduardo Paligan, Landbank branch manager here, said the money was earlier withdrawn from the Landbank Solano branch and was intended to become the bank's cash stock to meet the expected heavy withdrawals on Friday, a payday.

With a report from Jessebel Lacbawan, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Needs NOT
BEAUTY
PAGEANTS
GABRIELA

IT was a first in Baguio City—a rally against beauty pageants that turn women into commercial objects, according to militant groups.
EV ESPIRITU

Protests greet Baguio beauty pageant

BAGUIO CITY—Calling beauty contests a "symbol of commodifying and commercializing women," some 100 protesters picketed Friday night the staging of the Ms Baguio pageant at the Baguio Convention Center.

It was the first time that the pageant, held annually in time for the Baguio Day celebration, was picketed by militant groups.

"Ms Baguio is a symbol of commodifying and commercializing the women, and just as the commodifying and exploitation of the city," said Luchie Maranan, secretary general of Innabuyog-Metro Baguio.

The protesters were composed of farmers, students, church workers, teachers, government employees and feminists. They belonged to groups such as the League of Filipino Students, College Editors Guild of the Philippines, Gabriela-Youth, Lesbians for National Democracy, and schools such as University of the Philippines, Baguio Colleges Foundation, Saint Louis University and University of Baguio.

The protesters marched to the convention center where they held a mock beauty pageant.

Maranan said the beauty pageant has eaten up funds meant for basic services in the city.

"There's a need to demystify Ms Baguio and other beauty pageants because these are superficial projects that cover the shortcomings and neglect of the government to render such services as urban housing, water and other basic services. There is no urban planning that you can speak of," she said.

Pageant organizers admitted they were caught unawares by the protest, but said pageant expenses were shouldered by sponsors and partly by the city government.

"What the Ms Baguio beauty pageant offers are false hopes and promises for the beautiful ladies of (the) city. And truly, beautiful women do not deserve this. They do not deserve to be treated as sex objects," said the Innabuyog statement.

"They are human beings, they are not for sale. And they should not be put on sale on the very day we commemorate the founding of Baguio as a city." *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

5 Filipinas flee sex den in Malaysia

DAVAO CITY—Five victims of illegal recruitment, including a minor from this city, were able to escape from a sex den in Malaysia.

Three of the victims, a 21-year-old resident of Maragusan, Compostela province, a 19-year-old from Agdao District here and a 15-year-old girl, are now under the custody of Radyo Ukay in Zamboanga City.

Speaking over Radyo Ukay-Davao through a simultaneous broadcast on Friday, Helen (not her real name), 19, said they were recruited in July by a certain Fran and Fahtima Hashim to work in Zamboanga.

However, after arriving in Zamboanga, they were brought to Sandakan, Malaysia, where they were locked inside an apartment.

Later, the girls found out that they were being turned into sex workers.

Helen said they were able to escape through a hole leading to the rooftop from where they climbed down. They hitched a bus but were later arrested by a Malaysian police officer.

Helen said they stayed in the jail for a week where a police officer fell in love with one of her companions.

That companion, who was recruited with her cousin, later married the police officer.

The police officer shouldered the fare of his wife's cousin who was allowed to leave ahead of them.

The girls were later freed and were given money for their fare from Sandakan to Tawi-Tawi.

In Tawi-Tawi, Helen said they were stranded for three days. Then the Coast Guard helped them reach Zamboanga City where they sought the help of Radyo Ukay.

Randy Dominguez, program director of Radyo Ukay Zamboanga, said he brought the three girls to the National Bureau of Investigation for the filing of a case against their recruiter.

Once the case is filed and a warrant is issued, Dominguez said, the NBI could arrest the suspects.

The girls are expected to be home anytime soon after the station facilitated the purchase of their tickets.

Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Meet shows Bicol folk don't see light ahead

NAGA CITY—If the multisectoral consultation held on Aug. 30-31 here would be the gauge of how Bicolanos feel about their future under the Macapagal administration, one could see overwhelming pessimism.

Poverty, hopelessness, inequality and powerlessness were among the sentiments expressed by some 180 participants from the six Bicol provinces during the dialogue.

The activity is part of a series of consultations of the National Peace Conference held by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process and the National Anti-Poverty Commission.

When asked about poverty in their localities, the participants said that the people see discrimination in the delivery of government services, which made them develop distrust in the government.

Tess Rey, Metro Naga Development Council Operations officer, said negative views of the problems that the communities are going through were also prevalent even among participants from government agencies.

But Rey said that the consultation has achieved its purpose—to contribute to the formulation of a practical program for the poor.

The participants also see no hope that the gap between the rich and poor would ever be bridged.

They said lack of jobs, opportunities, existence of usurers and depletion of natural resources were just some of the signs that the gap would further widen.

They even blamed the rich for being greedy, an attitude which the participants said adds to the miseries the poor are experiencing.

They also expressed belief that prostitution is just a byproduct of poverty.

Roy Tordecilla, NAPC director for localization unit, said that the Macapagal administration is serious in correcting the pitfalls that plagued the program for the poor, which was dubbed Lingap para sa Mahihirap during the Estrada administration.

Tordecilla said that this is in line with the administration's confidence and trust-building measures to earn the cooperation of the poor in its poverty alleviation program.

He said that the Lingap program failed because there were defects in the selection of the supposed "poorest of the poor" who turned out to be political beneficiaries of authorities entrusted with the selection process.

Tordecilla said that one pledge that President Macapagal-Arroyo vowed to implement is the distribution of some 100,000 hectares of public lands to landless families.

However, he said the NAPC has no definite plans yet on how to implement the Macapagal administration's program for the poor.

The National Statistics Office estimated that 10.4 percent of Bicol's population are considered poor, which has the third highest poverty incidence all over the country after Western Visayas and Southern Tagalog in 1994.

Camarines Sur fourth district Rep. Felix Alfelor Jr. commented recently that Bicol had become the "*istambay* (unproductive people without work) capital of the Philippines" because of the burgeoning army of underemployed and unemployed men.

As of April this year, some 240,201 of the total labor force of 2.053 million were unemployed, latest NSO data said.

But Bicol is among the 13 regions with the lowest share, 4.4 percent or P74.73 billion, of the total national household income of P1.75 trillion last year.

The three regions that comprised 56.1 percent of the total national household income are the National Capital Region, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog. The rest of the regions contributed less than 10 percent each. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Massacre suspect won't enter plea

BY MELVIN GASCON
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—A former overseas contract worker who is the primary suspect in the murder of his wife and three children refused to enter any plea during his arraignment here on Friday.

Danilo Afalla, the primary suspect in the killing of his wife Aperacion and their children Cheenie Claire, 13, Mark Anthony, 9, and Michael Angelo, 5, also questioned the jurisdiction of the regional trial court here over the criminal cases filed against him.

Afalla maintained that the heinous crime court here does not have the right to try him on the charges.

"With due respect, your honor, I don't recognize your jurisdiction and I don't want to enter any plea," 41-year-old Afalla told Judge Jose Rosales during his arraignment.

According to defense lawyers, the parricide charges against Afalla should be tried before a family court as three of the cases involved minors as victims.

Despite attempts by defense lawyers to block Afalla's indictment, Rosales ruled to proceed with the arraignment.

'Not guilty'

With his refusal to personally enter a plea, the court entered "not guilty" pleas for Afalla on the four parricide charges.

The four cases were earlier filed before separate courts here—the parricide case involving the wife before RTC Branch 27 or the heinous crime court and the three parricide cases involving his children before the family court.

But based on separate orders by Judges Rosales and Gil Valdez, the cases were merged at the RTC Branch 27, citing a Supreme Court directive that cases "allied with one another" can be consolidated.

Afalla's lead counsel, John Severino Bagasao, however, said they would appeal the court ruling to combine all the cases before the RTC Branch 27.

The police expressed belief that the strongest evidence against Afalla would be the results of the DNA analysis being conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation.

Among those subjected for examination were bloodied shirts taken from Afalla's apartment in Miami, Florida, and blood traces gathered from the vehicle he reportedly used in transporting the bodies of the victims.

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) test results would reveal, based on the genetic codes obtained from the blood specimen, whether the blood on the shirts belonged to any of the victims, or whether their bodies were loaded into the vehicle.

The decaying bodies of the victims were discovered in a shallow grave along the Magat riverbank in Barangay Don Mariano Marcos here on April 18. They were mangled and wrapped in heavily blood-stained bed sheets. Their heads were sheathed in plastic grocery bags.

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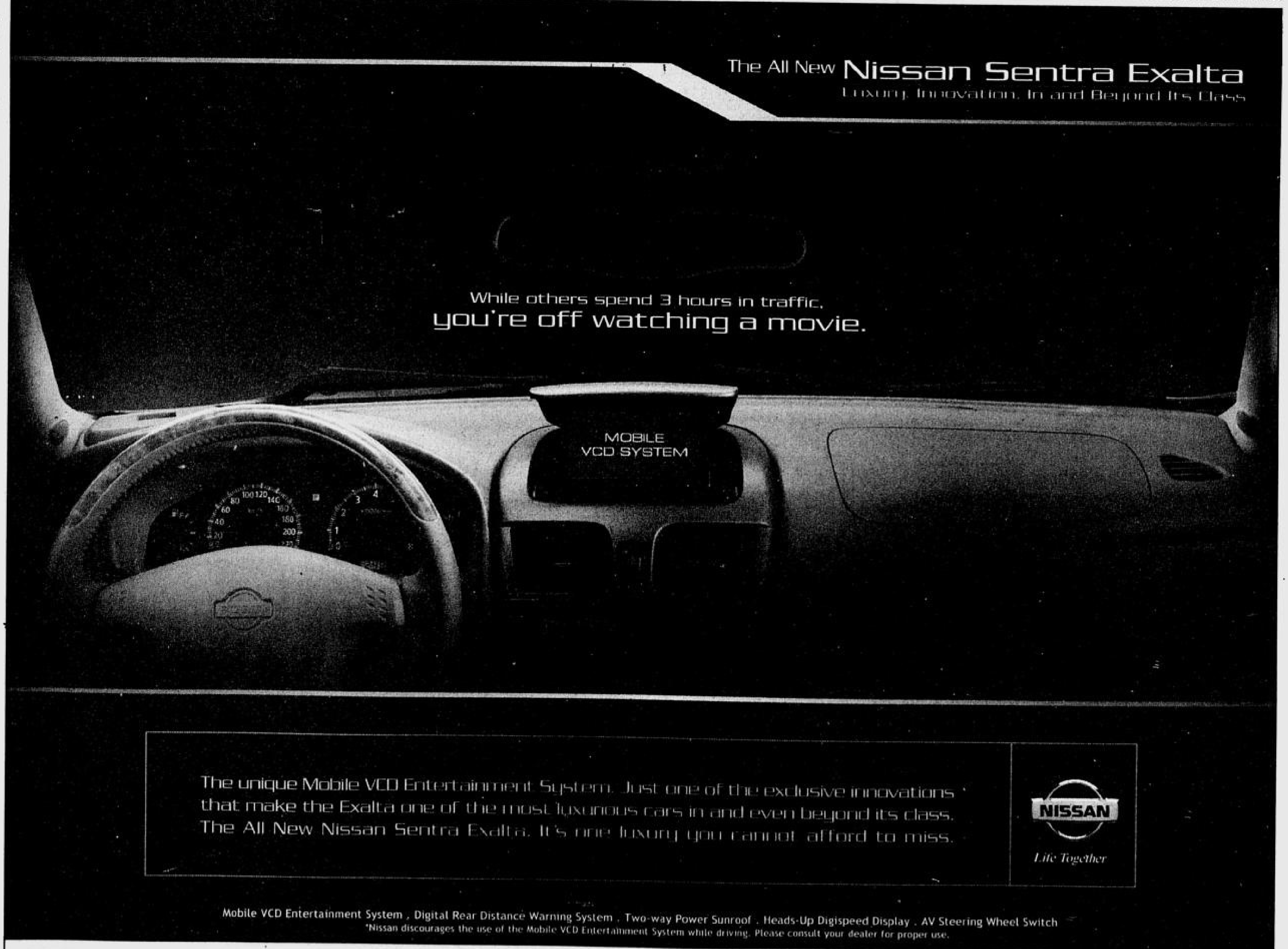

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Toxic alarm raised over coal power plant

(From page A1)

Balayan Bay.

He gave a copy of the Greenpeace report to a certain Rodolfo Rabacca, plant official, at the gate.

The official signed a copy of the document to acknowledge receipt, but he declined to be interviewed by the journalists. Napocor experts still have to study the contents of the report, he said.

"The presence of mercury in the coastal plant's waste stream is a clear demonstration of the grave threats posed by the combustion of coal for energy to human health and the environment," Constantino told the journalists, some of whom found their shoes stuck in the field of ashes.

Near the last row of crosses, eight activists raised a banner that read "Coal Kills" as the twin smokestacks of the power station loom over behind.

The power facility, which has been operating for the past 17 years, covers at least 65 hectares of land.

MERCURY FALLING: A Greenpeace activist takes samples from the ash disposal area of the Calaca coal-fired thermal power plant in this photo taken in May by John Novis of Greenpeace International.

Toxic threat

According to a Greenpeace report, ash samples taken from the coal waste field last May had "neurotoxin mercury" mixed with carbon. The samples were analyzed by the Philippine Institute for Pure and Applied Chemistry based in the Ateneo de Manila University.

Mercury is the only metal that remains liquid at room temperature. It is so dangerous that it takes only 1/70th of a teaspoon of it to contaminate a 62-hectare lake and make fish in it no longer safe for human consumption, the Greenpeace report said.

The toxic metal can also cause severe brain damage in developing fetuses, and mild tremors, mental disorders, motor and emotional disturbances and even death in exposed adults, it said.

"Typically, 50 percent of the mercury emitted from coal-fired power plants can travel up to 600 miles from the plant," Constantino pointed out.

A 100-megawatt coal-fired plant emits 62.62 tons of ash per hour every day, he said.

"Such wide distribution of contaminated ash throughout the environment is a dangerous policy," the report said. "As with combustion processes, the ash from burning coal is highly contaminated with dioxin, mercury and other toxic metals."

"Just like incinerator ash, coal ash must be classified and treated as hazardous waste, and should not be recycled or reused," the report warned.

It claimed that the government allowed the re-use of coal plant waste and byproducts as aggregates for construction, like filling materials, or as ingredients for fertilizer formulation.

Constantino disclosed that at least 20 dump trucks retrieve the plant's daily load of ash from the waste field. "There were reports that the ash was being used to make hollow blocks," he said.

A security guard at the waste field, Francisco Landicho, confirmed the reported hauling of ash waste. "But sometimes, the trucks do not arrive," he told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

Landicho said he did not have any idea where the hauled ash was being used.

Once productive

The vast expanse of toxic waste used to be a productive farmland in Barangay San Rafael.

When the power plant began to operate, the whole village was relocated in the farthest part of the dump. Strong winds that often brought gusts of ash byproducts to the community forced the residents to move to an area east of the plant in front of the main gate.

Considering that the Calaca plant has been operating for about 17 years now, Von Hernandez, campaign director of the Greenpeace Southeast Asia, said the probability of mercury poisoning in fish-eating communities along the coast "is very high."

"Serious respiratory afflictions have reportedly become part of the daily life of many residents in the Calaca coal plant communities," Constantino said.

Elpidio Salva, San Rafael village chief, said the people did not find anything wrong with the operation of the plant.

"It gave us jobs. It helps us in our needs through various projects in the village. It is helping us," he said.

But he said he did not understand what mercury was or its threat to humans and animals.

"The government will not neglect us," Salva, who is employed as welder at the plant, said in Filipino.

Because of inadequate studies on the heavy metal impact of coal plants on the environment and neighboring communities in the Philippines, Constantino said, "little attention is paid to the potentially disastrous accumulation of poisons ingested by human and animals."

"We demand an immediate and full-scale environmental audit of all operating coal plants combined with a health audit of victim communities in the country," Constantino said.

Other coal plants

Aside from the Calaca plant, the country operates a 1,200-megawatt plant in Sual, Pangasinan; a 440-megawatt plant in Mauban, Quezon; a 700-megawatt station in Pagbilao, Quezon; and a 700-megawatt station in Zambales.

"None of these plants, including the neighboring communities that are the most likely recipients of the mercury toxin, are being monitored for mercury contamination," Constantino said.

He warned that all the coal-fired plants could be emitting about 750 pounds of mercury a year, a "staggering quantity with potentially far-reaching and destructive implications to the nation's environmental and human health."

Constantino lamented the "arrogance" of the government in "foisting coal plants on unwary communities so that other more distant populations can enjoy the boon of debatable development."

"Combined with their apparent ignorance of the hazards that coal plants bring," he said, the government's attitude "is possibly claiming the future, not to mention the very lives of Filipinos at present."

He added: "Unless the government imposes a moratorium on the construction of new and additional coal plants, the wretched experience of Calaca is bound to be repeated in other places."

Erap, son return to court for pre-trial

(From page A1)

Estradas and the court premises for the duration of the pre-trial.

Saguisag, who filed only on Saturday the manifestation to waive his client's appearance, admitted that it might already be too late to prevent the police from bringing the accused to court this afternoon.

The lawyer also said the defense would continue to push for the recusation of Badoy, chair of the Sandiganbayan's third division, because of his alleged bias against the accused. Estrada's lawyers have also argued that Badoy's brother, Solomon, who has a pending graft case at the Sandiganbayan, was reappointed as a trustee of the Local Water Utilities Administration by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Could we really get a fair trial with (Justice Badoy) as chair of that division?" Saguisag asked.

He vowed to bring to the Supreme Court the issue of Badoy's inhibition regardless of whether the justice grants the motion or again refuses to recuse himself from the case.

"We are just waiting for him to decide on our motion. What we just need is a piece of paper," the lawyer said.

Court insiders noted that Badoy is not likely to change his mind.

Defense lawyers also said they had learned of the possible filing of plunder charges against businessman Jaime Dichaves, and were still wondering whether a case would be filed separately or would be consolidated with the Estrada case.

RM awardee's music bares a country's soul

(From page A1)

www.amaradeva.net.) It blends influences from Indian *raga* (characterized by their bewildering multitones, streaks of which can be found in jazz and even our own *pasyon*) and from Sinhalese folk songs, Buddhist chants and Portuguese airs.

A Filipino listener exposed to both the "vertical" in European music and the "horizontal" in Asian would sense in Amaradeva's works a subtle insistence on the latter. He seems big on melody, which he describes as "the charm" of music.

His lyrics are on universal themes—love and love lost, courtship, life and death, love of country, anguish and triumph, people, nature, the spiritual.

His voice is beautifully natural. Nothing like the European operatic that needs an excessive supply of oxygen and is sometimes meant to display lung power alone.

Amaradeva doesn't stun and dazzle. He charms. There is a little catch in his voice that is the secret ingredient in many a crooner's platinum. No wonder Amaradeva has become a very familiar voice in his home country. He is like the voice next door.

Independence

What is Sri Lankan music? When Sri Lanka, then Ceylon, gained independence in 1948, the answer still needed to be found and defined. That was about the time that Amaradeva, then known by the name he was given at birth, Albert Perera, began his career in music.

Amaradeva learned to play the violin when he was a little boy. His carpenter-father Wannakuwattawaduge Don Ginoris Perera (where the W.D. in Amaradeva's name comes from) played the violin.

The boy Albert displayed unusual talent at the age of seven, mastering Bengali tunes and later, classical North Indian ragas with the help of his older brother.

He was a boy prodigy, performing at local recitals and as a singer of Buddhist devotional songs.

At 13, he was starting to be heard over the radio; at 19, he was singing, playing the violin and even composing for film.

People who sensed his rare talent helped seek further classical training for him in India. At the Bhathkande Institute of Music in Lucknow, Albert received tutelage from the music masters. His talent gained recognition when he won first prize in an all-India music competition.

In 1958, Albert Perera returned to Sri Lanka as Amaradeva, a name conferred on him and which he accepted. (*Amara* means eternal; *deva* means god.) Albert was too English and Perera too Portuguese, and his soul seemed to be held hostage by Sri Lanka's former colonizers.

Amaradeva chuckles at the memory now. But this did not mean he had to make a clean break with the past. The great musical influences he had assimilated remained in him.

He quotes Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore: "The sign of the greatness in Great Genius is his enormous capacity to borrow, very often without his knowing it. He has unlimited credit in the world market of culture. It is the mediocre who is afraid and ashamed of borrowing for he cannot pay them back in his own coin."

Being a great fan of Tagore, Amaradeva has set to music some of the famous stanzas in "Gitanjali," which had been translated into Sinhalese.

Borrowed sounds

Speaking about borrowed sounds, Amaradeva recalls someone pointing out to him that one of his songs had the strains of the 1950s hit, "Three Coins in the Fountain," imbedded in it. "Oh, yes," he laughs, "but that is 3,000 years old." As ancient as Sanskrit, he notes.

Amaradeva says music is basically a language of emotions and that every human being, even at a minimal level, responds to music.

"However," he explains, "human emotions have been clearly associated with the spoken language of a nation as well, as have been musical sounds. I think the most accurate word for sound is *'Nada'* . . . it is sometimes referred to as *'Nada Brahma'* or Supreme Sound. We can next infer that the inflections of a language are closely reflected in the music of that nation."

He explains by quoting American music professor Joseph Machlis, who found that the melodic line follows the natural inflections of the language, that vocal music reflects the speech pattern of a nation and is rooted in the native soil. This is why, he adds, Debussy's vocal line seems so French, Brahms' so German, and Foster's so American. And, one may add, those of Nicanor Abelardo, Lucio San Pedro, Levi Celerio and Lucrecia Kasilag so Filipino.

Amaradeva adds his own list of eminent Indian names, among them, the famous Ravi Shankar and Sri Lankan pioneers Ananda Samarakoon and Sunil Shyantha. But Amaradeva has definitely become a musical pioneer himself.

He had made a study of the melodic patterns of Sri Lankan folk music and with these as base, he developed melodies using the improvisation techniques of Ragadhari music. When he tries to fit a folk song into a modern composition, Amaradeva takes care that the final product does not lose its indigenous identity. There is no taking away the Indian *raga* influence but his music is distinctly Sri Lankan now. (His son Ranjana, an accomplished Indian *tabla* player, and his wife Bolandage, a retired dance teacher, often play and sing with him.) Amaradeva has been hailed in his home country and abroad and has received numerous honors for his music.

While all the theorizing may sound foreign to the unmusical and the non-musicologists, the distinct Amaradeva sound is well-accepted among Sinhalese and Tamils in Sri Lanka, the bloody civil war notwithstanding.

In Sri Lanka, there remains a struggle between two schools of thought—the purists who want to promote Sinhala music only and the classicists who want to uphold the Hidustan tradition more than the Indians do. Instead of theorizing, Amaradeva has gone into creating.

As writer H.H. Bandara has said: "Amaradeva appears to have found the ideal synthesis and a plausible solution to this fundamental question. For he has a reverence for and a belief in both Sinhala music and the North Indian classical tradition, but is *not* a slave of both."

Sinhalese means descendants of the lion. Here is a son of the lion who does not roar but sings.

Economy not yet over the hump

(From page A1)

clutching the first straw of good economic news against the bleak landscape of the downturn of regional economies and the economies of Japan, the European Union and the United States.

Ms Macapagal appears to be overstating her case. She should be warned against reading too much "sure signs" in the second quarter growth. We are far from being over the hump.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said the growth showed "resiliency and bounce." He pointed out that the growth was driven by domestic demand, a salutary sign that our people are falling back on their wits to revive the economy rather than wait for investments to flow back and drive the economy to stronger growth.

"Resiliency" is, therefore, an accurate term—no thanks to a turbulent and unruly political system.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura were so buoyed up by the growth that they predicted the economy can post a 3.3-percent GDP growth for the entire year.

The Philippines was one of the few regional economies that posted more than 3-percent growth, and private analysts used to assessing the Philippines as a basket case found it "astounding."

But a more qualified comment came from John Cairns, an economist at IDEAglobal in Singapore, who said, "The economy is doing better, but it's not roaring ahead. Exports are under pressure, and there's an inventory overhang."

The growth surpassed private forecasts of a 2.2-percent expansion and the government's target of 2.8-3 percent, prompting Canlas to say the government was maintaining its GDP growth forecast of 3.3-3.8 percent for 2001.

A 2.9-percent growth in agriculture and fishery, a 3.6-percent growth in industry, and a 3.4-percent growth in the service sector bolstered the quarterly growth.

Growth in construction (6.6 percent), which rebounded from negative 4 percent in the first quarter, in agriculture and manufacturing (2.6 percent) helped offset a drop in electronics exports, which represent two-thirds of exports.

The government expects increased output from agriculture, which accounts for one-fifth of the GDP and which employs 40 percent of the workforce.

In comparison to the second-quarter growth of the regional economies, the Philippines is doing better and is likely to escape a recession.

But from the domestic context, the economy has to perform better to improve on the 2000 growth rates.

In 2000, which was a politically turbulent year, the GDP grew 4 percent although the causes of the turmoil were different. The lowest quarterly growth was 3.3 percent for the first quarter. The second-quarter growth was 4.3 percent.

Cold comfort

While the Philippine economy exhibited a "robust" second-quarter performance, the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook, due to be released this month, offers cold comfort.

The report predicts that the world economy will grow by a mere 2.8 percent, and there can be "a much more protracted global downturn."

This is bad news for Asian economies, including the Philippines, whose markets are contracting in the United States and Europe for electronics products.

Kunio Saito, director of the IMF Asia-Pacific division, said at the IMF training institute in Singapore last week that there were risks ahead of another currency or debt crisis, and that Asia's recovery would depend very much on the US and global markets for information technology-related products.

Thus, the Philippines is navigating against strong trade winds and the fact that it has not been pulled down by the contraction of Asian regional economies reflects the resiliency of the domestic economy.

What this points to is that economic recovery must be refocused to tap the consumer potential of the domestic market. This might be an inward-looking trajectory, but already large economies, like India and China, are putting more emphasis on the domestic market for consumer goods even as they compete, with other Asian economies, for very cautious and conservative foreign investments.

Another sign

Another salient sign of the second-quarter growth is that the economy has the capacity to gain relative autonomy from the uncertainties of politics.

It is growing—albeit slowly—and is not sinking, despite the political turbulence. One may argue that if the political sector were more stable and less rocked by political conflict, growth could have been better.

This suggests that an economic policy framework accenting strategies for reducing deficits and focused spending for growth programs can insulate the economy from the tremors of political conflict, but only up to a point.

Political turmoil during the Estrada administration did not sink the economy—although it contracted—and the economy grew despite the turmoil in the Macapagal presidency.

Had Estrada not been deposed, it was most likely that heightened political conflict could have sent the economy to recession.

The Philippine economy absorbed the shocks of the 1997 Asian crisis much better than the other regional economics and was less severely damaged.

Our chances of recovering ahead of the others were much better, but that opportunity was squandered by a spell of bad governance.

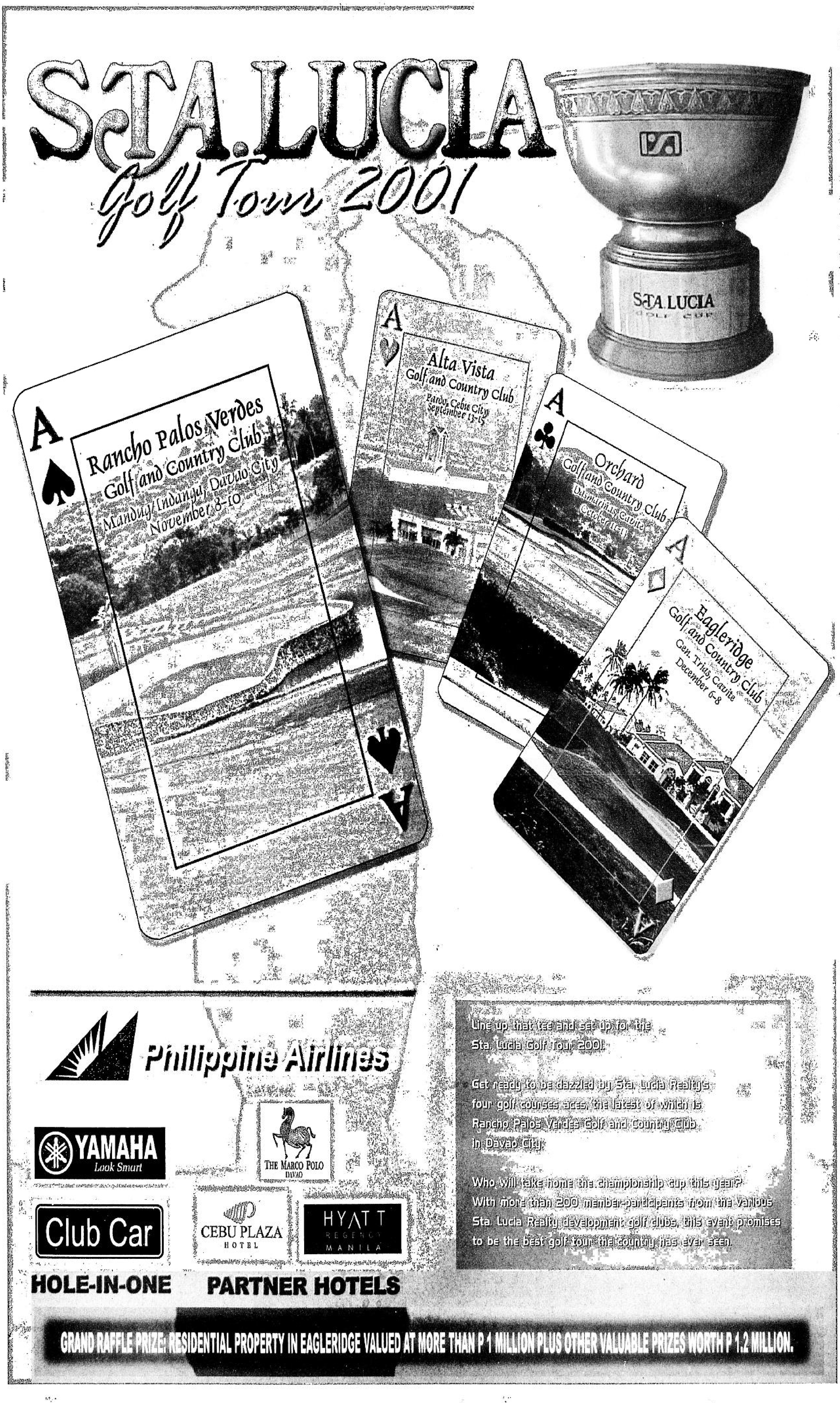
Better governance

We have better governance now, but due to other reasons, there is political instability that can be traced to the conflict-prone adversarial accent of Philippine democracy.

Conflict, represented by military coup attempts, shot down the rising growth rates of the Aquino years. Political conflict during the Estrada years squashed the opportunity for early economic recovery from the Asian meltdown.

Foreign observers have told me that due to the destructive nature of Philippine politics—together with widespread corruption—the Philippines has lost three generations of opportunities for economic revival: during the late Marcos years, during the coups against Aquino and during the corruption, mismanagement and incompetence of the Estrada years.

The guerrilla-war type of politics in the present era may crush another opportunity to revive growth.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ENGINEER Winnie Gob, vice chair of the Tour's executive committee, hits one of the ceremonial balls at Eagle Ridge.

Sta. Lucia Tour expands to 4 legs

VISAYAS for the start, then to Luzon and then back south to Mindanao and another return trip to Luzon for the conclusion.

Participants of the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour will take more bus and plane rides than the previous one when the course-hopping series unfurls this month with the addition of a new championship venue, organizers bared yesterday.

Rancho Palos Verdes, the Andy Dye-designed course that was recently opened in Davao, has been included as the fourth venue, completing a truly nationwide series for members of clubs operating under the Sta. Lucia Realty banner.

The series kicks off at the picturesque Alta Vista course in Cebu on Sept. 13-15 with the Orchard Golf and Country Club hosting the second leg Oct. 11-13. Palos Verdes will be the venue of the third stop on Nov. 8-10 before winding up at Eagle Ridge in Gen. Trias, Cavite on Dec. 6-8.

There are actually five clubs involved with Royale Tagaytay as the fifth team.

The 2001 Sta. Lucia Tour was launched with separate tournaments among club officials and mediamen in three host venues yesterday, Eagle Ridge, Alta Vista and Rancho Palos Verdes.

Making the affair doubly significant was the presence of representatives from The Summit Point and Caliraya, two more clubs developed by Sta. Lucia that are seen to become part of the growing series in the near future.

Sta. Lucia president Exequiel Robles graced the affair together with Orchard chair Conrad Benitez and president Dr. Carlo Magno, Marcos de Jesus of Alsons and Robbie Leviste of Summit Point. Also present were Vicente Santos and Winnie Gob Sta. Lucia Tour chair and vice chair, respectively.

Sergio, Colin head cast

TWO of the world's top-ranked golfers—Sergio Garcia and Scot Colin Montgomerie—spearhead the elite cast of players competing in the prestigious Johnnie Walker Classic slated Jan. 24-27, 2002 at the Lake Karrinyup Country Club in Perth, Western Australia.

Garcia, the boyish-looking charismatic shotmaker from Spain, and Irish Open winner and many-time European Tour Order of Merit champion Montgomerie have already confirmed their participation in the 72-hole championships, which will gather the best and the brightest players in the world.

The 21-year-old Garcia, now ranked No. 7 in the world, is coming off two stirring victories on the US PGA Tour this year, including the Mastercard Colonial in Texas, and has regained his spot in the European Ryder Cup team.

Montgomerie, on the other hand, is ranked 10th in the world and will be playing in his sixth Johnnie Walker Classic although he remained winless with a second-place finish to Briton Nick Faldo in Singapore in 1993 his best effort in the event. The seven-time winner of the European OOM derby has won 31 tournaments around the world.

UAAP MEET

NU shocks De La Salle

By Dennis U. Eroa

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	9	2
Ateneo	9	2
NU	7	4
UE	6	5
UST	5	6
FEU	5	6
UP	3	8
Adamson	0	11

HARD-FIGHTING National University posted a stunning 84-81 victory over defending champion La Salle and fortified its Final Four bid yesterday in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Loyola gym.

Veterans Jeff Napa and Ariel de Castro and rookie playmaker Froilan Baguion struck hardest as the Bulldogs finally cracked the Green Archers' cloak of invincibility which started in 1986, the year the Taft-based dribblers joined the UAAP.

Prior to this memorable game, NU, formerly the league's favorite whipping team, had lost 31 straight games to La Salle, which is seeking its fourth straight title. The Bulldogs improved their mark to 7-4, good enough for third place.

Despite the setback, the Green Archers, who missed Adonis Sta. Maria, Mika Vainio, Christian Cabatu and Ren Ren Ritualo to injuries, are safely on top with 9-2 slate, same card of the Ateneo Blue Eagles.

Earlier, crowd-pleasing Ronald Tubid powered University of the East to a devastating, 97-77 win over Adamson. It was UE's sixth win against five losses. Adamson dropped to its 11th straight setback.

Despite being undermanned, La Salle didn't easily give up against the ferocious Bulldogs, who got the lift from the low post plays of 6-foot-5 De Castro and the playmaking of the 5-foot-7 Baguion.

The absence of Ritualo, who watched helplessly with a heavily bandaged right ankle which he sprained while accidentally stepping on Chico Manabat's foot midway in the third period, robbed La Salle of a take-charge-guy in the crucial fourth quarter. Ritualo went out with 16 points.

Mark Cardona tried to resuscitate La Salle's bid, scoring six points as the Archers threatened, 81-82,4.1 seconds. BJ Manalo fouled Napa, who flubbed both charities but atoned for his misses by intercepting Cardona's pass to Carlo Sharma and pegging the final score with an unmolested layup as time expired.

"This victory somehow lightened our load," said NU coach Manny Dandan, who is trying to steer the Bulldogs to the semifinals since joining the team in 1998.

La Salle slotman Manny Ramos got into foul trouble early, allowing De Castro and Alfie Grijaldo to collar the rebounds with impunity.

Scores:

UE 97—Tubid 21, Artadi 18, Yap 16, Booker 11, Omiping 8, Estrada 8, Hubalde 8, Masbang 3, Ronquillo 2, Butel 2, Alminario 0, Tan 0.

ADAMSON 77—Mamaclay 21, Abadia 16, Mangulabnan 13, Catabay 12, Hate 7, Ferrer 4, Cinco 2, Tagupa 2, Yong 0.

Quarters: 14-25, 46-48, 65-63, 97-77.

NU 84—De Castro 19, Baguion 12, Napa 12, Tolentino 9, Grijaldo 9, Cayabyab 7, Neo 7, Manabat 4, Urbano 3, Mendoza 2, Cajayon 0.

DLSU 81—Cardona 22, Ritualo 16, Sharma 12, Gavino 9, Ramos 8, Cortez 4, Manalo 4, Arejola 3, Wilson 2, Yeo 1.

Quarters:24-21, 45-45, 71-61, 84-81

LA SALLE'S Mark Cardona (17Z) is fouled by a fallen Chico Manabat of NU while driving to the hoop. The Bulldogs upset the Green Archers, 84-81.
VAL HANDUMON

Frankie wins P2.5 M

FILIPINO ace Frankie Miñoza pushed Hiroyuki Fujita to the limit only to fade in the final two holes and dropped a close 3 and 1 decision, settling for fourth place in the Japan Match Play Championship in Tomakomai, Japan.

Making a big comeback after missing the cut in his last three tournaments, Miñoza pocketed $50,500 (about P2.5 million) and moved up to sixth from ninth in the Order of Merit with winnings of almost $385,000.

Miñoza was just one down through the 10th and managed to keep that deficit by splitting the next five holes. Fujita finished him off, however, by taking the 16th and 17th.

Dean Wilson turned back Lin Keng Chi, the Taiwanese who ended Miñoza's title bid in the semifinals, to win the crown.

Meanwhile, in the State Farm Classic of the LPGA, Fil-American standout Dorothy Joy Delasin scored a 70 and jumped to a share of 36th going into the final round.

Jong Arcano

Respect and recognition

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

WHETHER they win or lose is not the point, but the mere fact that Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante were among the select group of 16 players who were invited to the World Pool Masters 9-Ball tournament in London speaks well of themselves in the international billiards scene.

How could one not feel good? Even though the Philippines is just a dot in the world map struggling for respect and recognition, there was an exhilarating feeling of pride, of being Filipino, after the country got two invitations to compete in the world-class tournament when richer, bigger and more powerful countries like the United States only received one slot each.

"We're happy that renowned billiards organizers have given Efren and Django top priority in their list of invitees," said team manager Rollie Vicente of Matchroom Sport Ltd., promoters of the event which is set to wind up as we go to press yesterday (Sept. 2 in London). "The local players have certainly made a great statement for billiards and the Filipino nation as a whole."

Reyes and Bustamante are the lead players in the Philippine-Puyat Sports team supported through the years by brothers Popit and Putch Puyat, the moving spirit behind the enormous popularity of billiards in the country.

"Reyes and Bustamante are our pride and inspiration," said pool diehards. "Aside from their limitless skills, they also amaze us with their honesty in a sport previously associated with gamblers and hustlers, earning in the process international respect and recognition."

* * *

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SPORTSWATCH

Pete, Andre win

NEW YORK—Pete Sampras wasn't perfect: He double-faulted, blew two easy volleys and dumped an overhead into the net. And that was just in the first game. But for the most part on Saturday, Sampras played like the Pete of old, dominating with his serve and blanketing the net to beat upstart Russian Mikhail Youzhny 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 and reach the fourth round at the US Open. In other matches featuring seeded players, second-seeded Andre Agassi beat qualifier Ramon Delgado of Paraguay 7-5, 7-6 (5), 6-3 and defending champion Marat Safin of Russia, seeded third, beat Moroccan Hicham Arazi 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (5). Agassi's next opponent will be No. 13 Roger Federer of Switzerland, who ended Sampras' reign at Wimbledon two months ago. *AP*

Montoya gets pole

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium—Juan Pablo Montoya bounced back from a bad crash to take the pole position Saturday for the Belgian Grand Prix.The Colombian, who wrecked his car during Friday's practice, produced a blistering lap with slick tires on a damp track late in the qualifying session, allowing only his Williams BMW teammate Ralf Schumacher to get within a second of his time. Michael Schumacher, who on Sunday will try to become Formula One's winningest driver, led much of the way but finished third in front of German countryman Heinz-Harald Frentzen. *AP*

Roligon derby

RESPECTED cockers from most parts of the country will meet at the much-awaited BL Showdown 7-Stag National Derby today at Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City. Among those who will participate in this derby are Rudy Jingco, Manolo Gamboa, a *balikbayan* from Kentucky; and Luis Villar of Pampanga; Ado and Leoving Villanueva and engineer M. Datu of Bulacan; Vic Yu, Boyboy Roa and William Go of Antipolo; Jessie Cabalza, Kapitan Lat, Jun Sevilla and Iking Araneta of Batangas; Mayor Bunoy of San Pablo City; Emit San Juan, Pol Estrellado, Rudy Salud and Patrick Antonio of Laguna, and many others. Lope Dorado and Dr. Carreon will lead the participants from Cebu while those from Cagayan de Oro City are Butchoy Ang, Tony Gregorio, Ronald Roa and others.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	80	56	.588	—
Boston	71	63	.530	8
Toronto	66	70	.485	14
Baltimore	55	80	.407	24 1-2
Tampa Bay	49	87	.360	31

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	77	58	.570	—
Minnesota	71	65	.522	6 1-2
Chicago	68	66	.507	8 1-2
Detroit	55	79	.410	21 1-2
Kansas City	55	81	.404	22 1-2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	97	39	.713	—
Oakland	79	57	.581	18
Anaheim	70	66	.515	27
Texas	61	75	449	36

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	72	63	.533	—
Philadelphia	72	63	.533	
New York	65	71	.478	7 1-2
Florida	62	73	.459	10
Montreal	58	77	.430	14

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	79	56	.585	
Chicago	76	59	.563	3
St. Louis	73	62	.541	6
Milwaukee	60	74	.448	18 1-2
Cincinnati	54	81	.400	25
Pittsburgh	50	84	.373	28 1-2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	78	58	.573	—
San Francisco	75	61	.552	3
Los Angeles	74	62	.544	4
San Diego	68	68	.500	10
Colorado	59	75	.440	18

COMPLETE RESULTS

American League

N.Y. Yankees 2, Boston 1;
Toronto 3, Detroit 1;
Tampa Bay 8, Oakland 6;
Seattle 6, Baltimore 4;
Cleveland 4, C. White Sox 3;
Anaheim 11, Minnesota 9;
Kansas City 8, Texas 7, 10 innings.

National League

Chicago Cubs 5, Atlanta 3;
San Francisco 2, Colorado 1;
Pittsburgh 7, Cincinnati 0;
Milwaukee 4, Houston 3;
Philadelphia 4, Montreal 1;
N.Y. Mets 3, Florida 2, 11 innings;
Los Angeles 3, Los Angeles 1;
San Diego 7, Arizona 6. *AP*

Bicolanas sparkle

BICOL University High School rocked the charts with a 2-1 victory over fancied Colegio San Agustin to barge into the final of the girls' team division at the resumption of the 2001 Milo All-Students Tennis Championships yesterday at the Rizal Memorial hardcourts.

The Ligao, Albay-based Catherine Flores and Joan Vibal starred for the Bicol University and takes on Assumption, which blanked St. Paul-Pasig 3-0, for the championship jewel.

Globetrotters

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

THERE'S not much rest for some NBA players and draftees this summer. While the NBA itself is still on vacation, a number of its players are globetrotting to fulfill their roundball obligations to their countries.

In addition to Team USA, which is fielding an all-NBA selection for the first time ever, players with NBA links competing in the ongoing Goodwill Games in Brisbane, Australia include Juan "Pepe" Sanchez.

Ruben Wolkowyski and San Antonio draftee Emanuel Ginobili of Argentina (which beat Brazil to top the 2001 Tournament of the Americas, the continent's qualifying tournament to next year's World Championships in Indianapolis), Sean Marks of New Zealand and Chris Anstey, Paul Rogers and C.J. Bruton of the host Aussies.

Sanchez, a 6-4 guard out of temple University, was not taken in the 2000 NBA draft but found his way to split time with the Philadelphia 76ers and Atlanta Hawks as a rookie pro last campaign. Wolkowyski, a 6-1, 28-year-old forward, earned a rookie free-agent berth with Seattle last season, hitting at a 2.2-point clip in 34 games. Ginobili, a 6-6, 24-yar-old forward, was the spurs' second-round draftee in 1999 but has played in Italy the past three years, helping guide Kinder Bologna to the Italian League championship this year.

Marks, a 6-10, 26-year-old forward center out of the University of California, appeared in a combined 13 games with the Toronto Raptors in 1998-99 and 1999-2000. He was signed to a 10-day pact by Seattle in mid-January this year. Marks averaged a team-best 13.0 points and 7.3 rebounds for New Zealand during the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Anstey, a 7-foot, 26-year-old center, saw action with the Dallas Mavericks and Chicago Bulls from 1997-98 through 1999-2000, averaging 5.2 points and 3.4 boards in 155 contests. The 1997 NBA first-round draft choice by Portland (whose rights were immediately shipped to Dallas) saw action in his homeland last campaign.

Rogers, also a 7-footer who played collegiately at North Idaho and Gonzaga, was the LA Lakers' second-round draftee in 1997 but has yet to suit up in the NBA.

In the recently concluded World University Games in Beijing, Yugoslavia routed host China, 101-61, to gain the gold. (The US, winner of the six previous tournaments, settled for bronze with a 70-68 victory over Germany. The Americans, who were composed of collegiate players, saw a 46-game winning streak shattered when they were upset by the Chinese, 83-82, in the knockout semifinals.) China was bannered by 7-1 Dallas Mavericks forward Wang Zhizhi, the first Chinese player ever to play in the NBA, and 7-5, 21-year-old Yao Ming of the Shanghai Sharks.

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP
TAB Philippines Inc. chief operating officer Tony Young (second from left) formalizes a P1-million sponsorship contract for the staging of the TAB Philippines-Philracom Open Championship on Sept. 30 at the San Lazaro Hippodrome. Also signing the agreement were (from left) Peter Mayne, Chair of Jupiters International, MJCPresident Alfonso Reyno Jr. and Philracom Chair Andrew Sanchez.

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Batangas, Ecija keep MBA lead

By Roy Luarca

THE LBC Batangas Blades took the Socsargen Marlins out of the game early and went on to tally a 112-90 victory that gave them a share of the lead in the MBA Second Phase at the Tinga Gym in Taguig last night.

Controlling the boards and running smoothly in transition plays, the Blades vaulted to a 64-33 halftime lead which they nurtured till the end for their second straight win in as many outings that tied them with the Nueva Ecija Patriots.

The Patriots recovered from the shock of blowing a 27-point lead to subdue the depleted Cebuana Lhuillier gems, 90-81, in the opener.

With Eddie Laure presiding over their relentless attack, the Blades posted a 41-point spread (83-42) and it took a nine-point cluster by Bong Alvarez to cut it down to 87-55 at the end of the third quarter.

There was little the Marlins could do after that, however, as they suffered their second straight defeat and landed at the cellar of the eight-team field.

Francis Aquino, Dave Bautista and rookie Ramil Ferma conspired in the fourth quarter to regain control for the Patriots and spoil the debut of the Gems, who were hounded by poor freethrow shooting.

Way ahead at 43-16, the Patriots fell silent in the third quarter and allowed the Gems, playing with only eight men, to close in at 66-64.

Scores:

NUEVA ECIJA 90—Aquino 20, Bautista 11, Chanceco 9, Manucat 7, A. de Guzman 7, Bansil 7, Ferma 7, Malonzo 7, Punsalan 6, Allen 4, Magat 3, Bunyi 2.

CEBU 81—Padilla 17, Sayon 15, De Jesus 14, Solis 13, Se 9, Santamaria 7, Montalbo 4, yu 2.

Quarters: 24-9, 49-29, 66-64, 90-81.

FIRST SERVE

Councilor Junjun Binay makes the ceremonial serve kicking off the Makati Table Tennis Classic recently at the Makati Coliseum. Binay said the event serves as the start of a series of table tennis meets to be held all over the country. Also gracing the opening were Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and officers of the Philippine Table Tennis Development Union.

UP booters whip UST rivals, capture 4 on 4 crown

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines-Diliman blasted University of Santo, 6-1, and crowned itself the winner of the premier men's division in the inaugural Lipovitan 4 on 4 soccer campus tour national finals before a huge crowd at the PowerPlant Mall in Rockwell, Makati City.

In the Lipovitan IRA women's division finals, Colegio San Agustin leaned on the golden goal of Mong Dang to frustrate University of Santo Tomas, 4-3 in regulation.

Gracing the simple but meaningful awarding ceremonies were: Aaron Matti, marketing manager of the sponsoring Taisho Pharmaceuticals, (Phils) Inc., maker of Lipovitan Energy Drink, Joan Juanillo, brand manager Lipovitan, Lovell Gopez, managing director of Master Sports Corporation-Mizuno, Domica Garamendi, deputy secretary general Philippine Football Federation, lawyer Meneleo Luna, Pro-Aide director and legal counsel, and project director Dexter Araquel.

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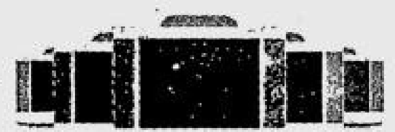

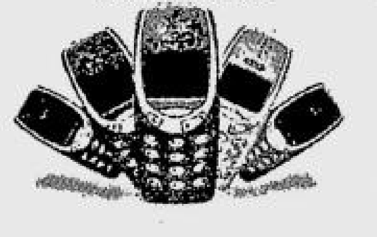

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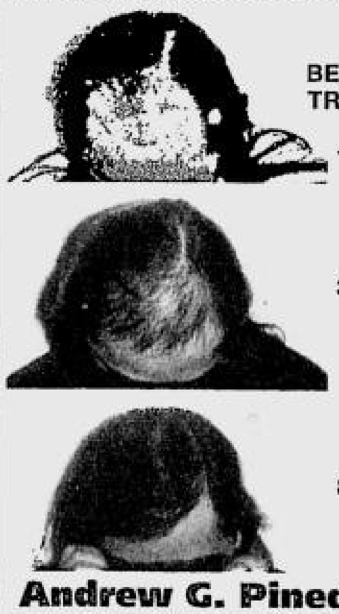

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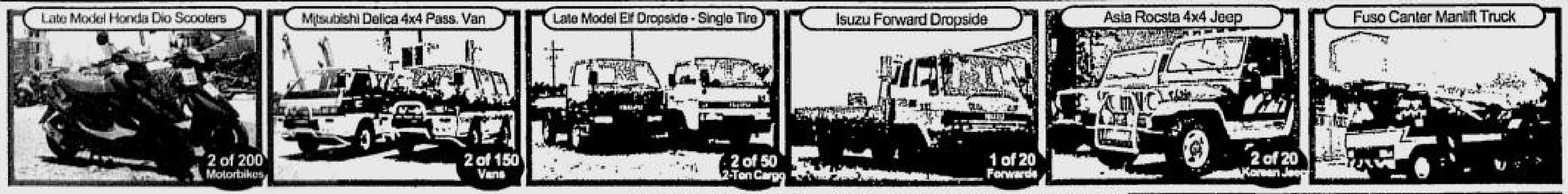

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Sparks WNBA champs

LOS ANGELES—Reeking of champagne, Lisa Leslie, DeLisha Milton and Nicky McCrimmon rapped out a rhyme as Mwadi Mabika pounded out a beat against the wall in celebration of the Los Angeles Sparks' WNBA championship. "OK, that's enough," Leslie said, signaling that she was eager to talk about the Sparks' 82-54 victory over the Charlotte Sting on Saturday. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

■ NU Bulldogs shock De La Salle Archers A20

Cage body lifts suspension of BAP

BY JUNE NAVARRO

THE INTERNATIONAL Basketball Federation (Fiba) yesterday lifted its suspension of the Basketball Association of the Philippines after recognizing Quinteliano Literal as the legitimate BAP president.

Fiba deputy secretary general Patrick Baumann presided over a four-hour meeting and decided to proceed with the elections after no amicable settlement was reached between protagonists Literal and Gonzalo Puyat II.

The absence of Puyat moved the Fiba to carry on with the exercise instead of an arbitration. Puyat was represented yesterday by Mauricio Martelino, his VP for operations.

"There's no point in continuing with the arbitration if Puyat was not here. But even if he's (Puyat) here, the result will still be the same judging from the number of Literal's votes," said Baumann, who supervised the whole proceeding along with ABC president Carl Menky Ching and secretary general Yeoh Cheoh Hock.

But Puyat's group condemned the Fiba decision and stressed that the laws of the land should be strictly followed.

"We will not abide by the Fiba decision because this issue should be solved internally," said Martelino, who stressed that the POC continues to recognize Puyat's group as the legitimate BAP.

The Court of Appeals recently recognized the POC as the sole authority to govern over sports matters in the country.

Literal was unanimously elected as president after 21 of the 32 board members present turned in their votes in favor of the former Ateneo Blue Eagles stalwart.

Baumann said they explored possible solutions with Literal and Martelino, respectively, but failed to come up with a solution.

And since there was no more room for arbitration, Baumann proceeded with the elections instead.

"As consequences we will recognize this result and immediately lift the suspension on the BAP," said Baumann to the applause of the BAP board and their supporters.

The lifting of the suspension also assured the Philippines of defending its basketball title in the coming SEA Games.

Bustamante enters semis

BUSTAMANTE

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante nipped Marcus Charrat of Swededn, 7-6, to advance to the semifinals of the World Pool Masters 9-ball tournament in Essex, England Saturday night.

Bustamante faces Rodoslaw Babica of Poland in the next round.

Meanwhile, Efren "Bata" Reyes, Bustamante's Puyat Sports teammate, reached the last eight with a masterful 7-2 win over Tony Drago of Malta.

Reyes meets reigning World Pool champion Mike Immonen of Finland in the last quarterfinals match at 7 p.m. Sunday (RP time), with the winner advancing to the other semifinal match.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: US Open 2001 – Men's Third Round/ Women's Fourth Round at 7 a.m. (r – 6 p.m.), Men's and Women's Fourth Round at 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports

ATP Tennis Show at 4:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

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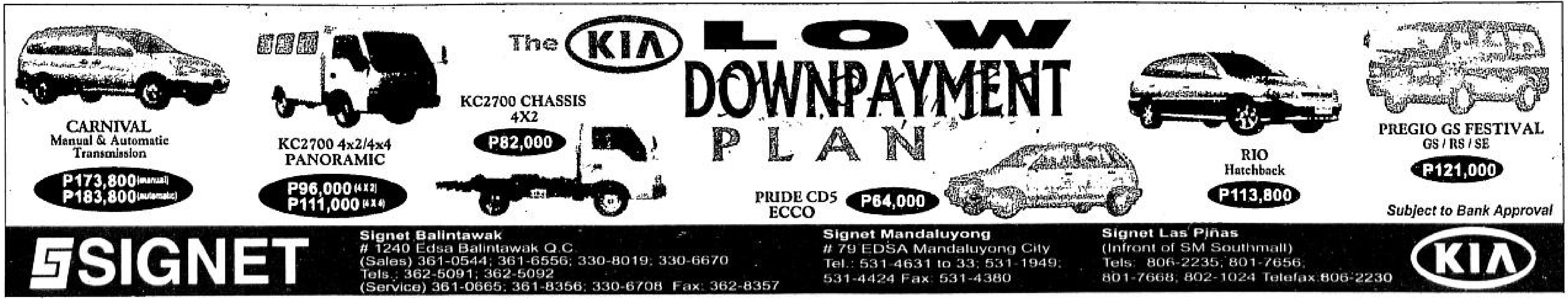

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KIA

■ Kindness of strangers helps heal Jon-Jon A27

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

■ 4 youths robbed, beat me up after sex, says woman A24

8 dead, 19 wounded in 2 road accidents

By Romulo O. Ponte,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau,
and Christian V. Esguerra

EIGHT people were killed and 19 others were injured in two vehicular accidents on a highway in Cavite and in Caloocan City yesterday morning.

The collision of a passenger jeepney and a passenger bus on the Soriano Highway in Tanza, Cavite claimed the lives of six passengers and wounded 13 others, according to Cavite police.

Those who died were all factory workers on their way home, according to PO2 Joyce Cabanilla. She identified six of them as Cecille Aquino, 21; Josephine Daod, 27; Myra Dino, 23; Maricel Riva, Marilyn Pareñas and Jennifer Bello.

A dzMM radio station report said another passenger also died later, raising the number of deaths to seven. The last to die was Felicitas Betanga, the report said.

Police investigation showed that at 7:45 a.m., the passenger jeepney (VAX 337) bound for Naic, Cavite and driven by Ronaldo Barachina was avoiding a bus that was dropping passengers when the jeepney collided head-on with an approaching Saulog bus (DVS 360).

The collision left the jeepney a total wreck. Its top was ripped off, the investigators said.

The unidentified Saulog bus driver escaped after the accident and was still at large as of press time.

PO2 Cabanilla identified the 13 wounded as Maricel Bandoño, Rochel Ramirez, Maarny de Villa, Florence Diones, Marilou Orte, Maricel Poblete, Melizza Ruel, Lellibeth Benitez, Ronaldo Barachina, Marjorie Gaton, Priscila Elago, Nenita Bendo and an unidentified woman.

In the Caloocan accident, a female graduating college student was crushed to death, while six other passengers, including a pregnant woman, were injured.

8 DEAD/ A24

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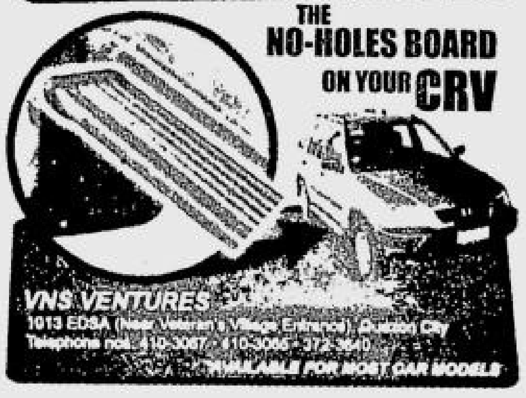

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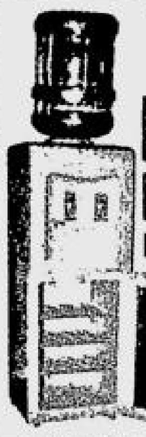

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September 1-7

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4 youths robbed, beat me up after sex, says woman

By Philip C. Tubeza

A 36-YEAR-OLD woman was in tears when she reached the Anonas police station in Quezon City early Friday morning.

She told investigator PO1 Ireneo Cadelina, desk officer of the Anonas police station, that four teenage boys beat her up after they had sex with her on the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

She said the teenagers even took back the P500 they paid her for sex before they dumped her on the roadside in a dark area of the campus.

The victim, who said she is married and a resident of Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, said the four boys picked her up along Quezon Avenue about 2 a.m. Friday and agreed to pay her P500 in exchange for sex.

She said she boarded their maroon car which brought them to the UP campus. When they got there, she said, they alighted from the car and had sex.

The police report was not clear if the boys brought the victim to a house or a building on campus and had sex with her or if they had sex in an open space on campus.

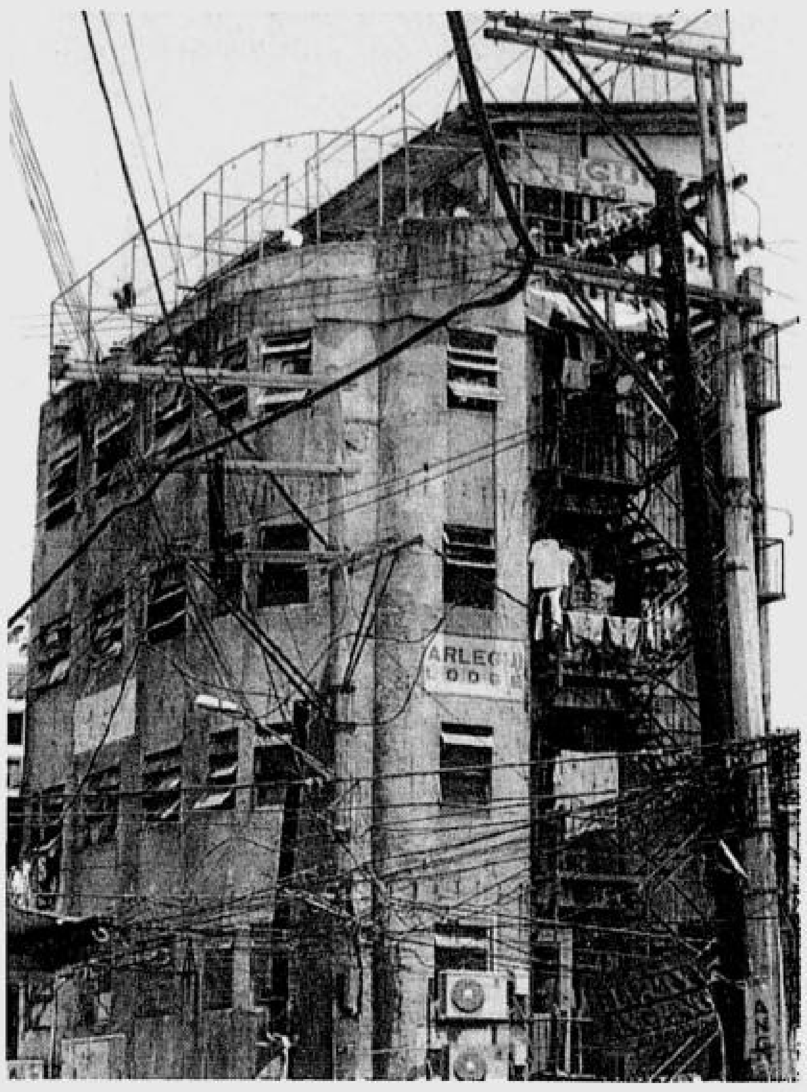
After sex, the victim said, the boys gave her the P500 fee they agreed on.

She said she thought nothing was amiss when they boarded the car. She was wrong.

The boys drove around the campus for several minutes, she said. But when they reached a dark portion of the campus, she said, the teenagers scratched her face and kicked her.

She said they then beat her up and forced her out of the car onto the roadside. But before the teenagers left, she said, they took back the P500 they paid her.

The woman said she tried to find her way in the dark on the sprawling UP campus and finally reached the Anonas police station about two hours later.



A TRAGEDY WAITING TO HAPPEN ERIC ARAZAS

While lawmakers continue to conduct inquiries in aid of legislation, building owners continue to defy fire safety regulations, like this Manila structure whose tiny windows are barred with grills and whose fire escapes are barricaded.

Manila to revive riverbank areas

AFTER reviving plazas, playgrounds and other public places in the city, the city of Manila is targeting areas along the Pasig River.

A City Hall statement said these riverbank areas include San Nicolas Street in Binondo on the north bank and the area behind the Bureau of Immigration building on the south bank.

"We want to transform San Nicolas and the area on the other side of the Pasig River into something similar to Clark Quay in Singapore which has open cafes, restaurants and shopping stalls," Mayor Lito Atienza said. "We believe it has a very high potential as a tourist destination."

In the past weeks, the south bank of the Pasig River behind the Immigration building was cleared of trucks loading and unloading cargo from barges after Atienza put a stop to the arrastre operations in the area.

He also ordered the city engineer's office to rehabilitate San Nicolas on the other side of the river.

"What we intend to do is to provide the vision and framework of development for these areas, from which the private sector can take its cue," he said. "This strategy has been proven effective in other areas we have redeveloped such as Malate and Plaza Miranda, to name a few."

He said the city government would also provide basic infrastructure such as lighting to make the areas more attractive to potential investors.

Atienza said the city government is already fine-tuning the development plan for the riverbank areas. The plan was crafted by a team of city government engineers and planners.

"We expect to start full implementation of this development plan in the next few weeks as we have already succeeded in clearing the areas," said Atienza.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 3, 2001
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **1 Thes 4:13-18**
Gospel: **Lk 4:16-30**

When Jesus came to Nazareth where he had been brought up, he entered the synagogue on the sabbath as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Jesus then unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written: *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and new sight to the blind; to free the oppressed and announce the Lord's year of mercy."*

Jesus then rolled up the scroll, gave it to the attendant and sat down, while the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he said to them, "Today these prophetic words come true even as you listen."

All agreed with him and were lost in wonder, while he kept on speaking of the grace of God. Nevertheless they asked, "Who is this but Joseph's son?" So he said, "Doubtless you will quote me the saying: Doctor, heal yourself! Do here in your town what they say you did in Capernaum."

Jesus added, "No prophet is honored in his own country. Truly, I say to you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens withheld rain for three years and six months and a great famine came over the whole land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow of Zarephath, in the country of Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha, the prophet, and no one was healed except Naaman, the Syrian."

On hearing these words, the whole assembly became indignant. They rose up and brought him out of the town, to the edge of the hill on which Nazareth is built, intending to throw him down the cliff. But he passed through their midst and went his way.

Commentary

All of us want to be accepted. We feel bad if we are rejected. But gaining acceptance is not an easy job. Some think they can get it if they do whatever is expected of them, even if it is contrary to their will. A pleaser may not necessarily gain acceptance. Jesus is not a pleaser. Jesus refuses to do what is expected of him in the synagogue: to serve in his own hometown. Charity begins at home. Yes, but Jesus wants to drive a point. Citing the example of the prophets, Elijah and Elisha who also served outside Israel, Jesus teaches that we gain acceptance from God only if we do not limit ourselves to serving those who are close to us. To be acceptable then is to be open to other people.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites:http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—No retroactive application of Manchester doctrine—The Court, in Manchester Development Corporation v. Court of Appeals (149 SCRA 562 [1987]), held that the court acquires jurisdiction over any case only upon the payment of the prescribed docket fee. An amendment of the complaint or similar pleading will not thereby vest jurisdiction in the court, much less the payment of the docket fee based on the amounts sought in the amended pleading. Generally, the jurisdiction of a court is determined by the statute in force at the commencement of the action, unless such statute provides for its retroactive application. Once the jurisdiction of the court attaches, it continues until the case is finally terminated. The trial court cannot be ousted therefrom by subsequent happenings or events, although of a character that would have prevented jurisdiction from attaching in the first instance. The Manchester ruling, which became final in 1987, has not retroactive application and cannot be invoked in the subject Complaint filed in 1984. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, Third Division, Baritua v. Mercader, G.R. No. 136048, January 23, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Image problem for RP cagers in SEA Games

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

UNTIL yesterday morning, it was still very possible for the sensational Red Bull basketball team, winner of the PBA Commissioner's Cup over San Miguel, to represent the Philippines in the Southeast Asian Games.

OK, I told this visiting critic, do you foresee any problem?

Yes, he retorted, questions could be raised on how to honestly label the RP national team.

Why?

Mick Pennisi, for one. He can't easily pass for Pinoy. He looks every inch a Roman centurion, with those sharp eyes and the long, thin, crafted beard.

I nodded. It was not the first time I had heard it said that Pennisi looks anything but half-Pinoy.

But that's only one player, I retorted, I don't think the hosts would mind.

But there's also Devonn Harp. He looks pure American. He doesn't seem to have a single drop of Pinoy blood in him.

I considered and nodded again. My keen-eyed visitor had another point there.

Come on, I explained, these two guys have been cleared by the DOJ to play in the PBA. What's wrong with them joining the RP National basketball team in the SEA Games?

There could be complications, he said. Their opponents could rant and claim our team has taken in imports. This had never been done by the nationals in past SEA Games campaigns.

The protesting critic said he also has to question another Red Bull team member: Willy Miller. He said the backcourt wonder boy could be mistaken for another American.

Please, I said, scratching my head, it's just in the name. I have seen the guy walking out of the Mandaluyong Executive Mansion, his current quarters. He looks every inch a genuine GI boy, a modern-day Johnny Revilla as Al Mendoza loves to put it.

***

OK, my visitor continued, but would Red Bull agree to go to KL without Pennisi and Harp?

I doubt, I said. They are the main cogs, especially in Red Bull's internal game.

Actually, he said, I really think the San Miguel team would be the more appropriate squad if the PBA were to send a representative to the SEA Games.

But coach Jong Uichico himself had said Red Bull, instead of San Miguel, should be going.

Yes, he answered, I had heard that statement by Uichico. But with San Miguel, their Fil-Am players like Nick Belasco and Danny Seigle would not be mistaken for foreigners. They look very much like legit half-Pinoys, unlike Pennisi and Harp.

Well, I asked, why have you been too touchy about the national team composition?

What's wrong with two or three members with foreign-sounding names?

Well, he explained, I just don't like other countries to think that, with the quality of the SEA Games competition, the Philippines would still try to go to foreign players for help. It's just the SEA Games. We should show our neighbors we could handle it with a team composed of pure Pinoys.

So what would you suggest instead?

If not San Miguel, why not the Metropolitan Basketball Association line-up which has been prepared by the group of Tiny Literal?

***

That, indeed, sounds like a fine solution. In place of either Red Bull or San Miguel, why not the MBA Selection which, as Literal had been crowing, has been in training for nearly 10 months now?

Well, personally, I'm for sending the MBA Selection because it's simply the purest of the three squads as far as Pinoy lineage is concerned.

Problem is, as of press time, there was still no definite decision on how the leadership row in the Basketball Association of the Philippines would be resolved.

Maybe I made the wrong pitch when I cheered and saluted the scheduled arrival of foreign representatives from both the IOC and the Fiba to help arbitrate and resolve the BAP leadership mess.

My senior colleagues in the sports beat, like Ding Marcelo and Al Mendoza, maintained there was no need for the foreign officials after the Court of Appeals ruled and upheld the election of Lito Puyat as president of the BAP.

Then, all of a sudden, POC president Celso Dayrit put his foot down and decided to adopt the ruling of the Philippine court on the dragging basketball leadership mess. He said there was no longer any need for the Fiba representatives to arbitrate the leadership fight.

Anyway, as I had feared, resolving the BAP problem would not be as plain as officiating at a boxing main event. But here's praying Dayrit plays it very firm.

Let's also hope the Philippines is able to put in a basketball team in the KL games.

You see, together with billiards and boxing, basketball is among the top three events that Pinoy sports fans follow with extreme enthusiasm. This has been bared by NBN, the local network covering the SEA Games.

WALKERS, GIVERS ERIK ARAZAS

People from various sectors joined the Manila phase of Alay Lakad 2001 at the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park. The annual walk, which expected to attract about 3 million participants this year, raised funds to help send out-of-school youths back to school, among other anti-poverty projects.

Militants march vs ROTC

By Agnes Donato

MILITANT groups yesterday joined thousands of students and other youths in the annual Alay Lakad to reiterate their call for the abolition of the Reserve Officers Training Corps.

About 200 ROTC cadets and members of the group Abolish unfurled placards and banners in front of the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park, where some 5,000 participants of the "Alay Lakad Para sa Kinabukasan ng Kabataang Pilipino" converged starting at 8 a.m. yesterday.

The cadets and Abolish members were protesting the continued implementation of the military training course.

"We join this Alay Lakad because we see it as a walk for our future," said Romulo Yumul, Abolish spokesperson.

"ROTC is one of the major hindrances to the social involvement and values formation of the youth. Our call to abolish this corrupt and oppressive program remains timely and urgent."

Cristina Palabay, National Union of Students of the Philippines president and Abolish convenor, also called for a continued Senate inquiry into the alleged anomalies in the ROTC.

Palabay urged Congress to investigate not only the reported corrupt and violent practices in the ROTC but also the "illegal intelligence activities of the military in the schools."

"Aside from breeding corruption and violence, the program also serves as a conduit for illegal intelligence activities of the military in schools," she said. "This violates academic freedom and the students' right to free expression."

Palabay, however, added that despite her group's call for the abolition of ROTC, her group welcomed legislative measures that would make the program optional.

"We are open to some of the suggestions made by our legislators," she said. "But we take their proposed alternatives and regulations with caution because we want to be sure that these address the interests of the students."

Palabay also urged members of the Congress to give the students representation and participation in the formulation of alternatives to the ROTC.

Store robbed

BURGLARS broke into a computer store in Quezon City and took more than a dozen computers worth P300,000 before dawn Saturday.

Businessman Mario Jumaquio, 34, of Barangay Masambong, Quezon City, told investigators that the burglars took 13 computers, according to investigator PO2 Roger Esteves of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Esteves said the thieves entered the store on Corumi Street between 2 a.m. and 7 a.m. by destroying the padlock of the main door.

The robbery was discovered only around 7 a.m. when Jumaquio was about to open his shop.

Philip C. Tubeza

8 dead, 19 wounded in 2 road . . .

(From page A23)

Madonna Marzan, 23, a student of the Malabon Community College and a part-time employee of Pizza Hut restaurant, died instantly when the passenger jeepney she was riding fell on its side and crushed her head, police said.

The six other passengers who were injured were brought to the Manila Central University Hospital, said case investigator PO3 Joel Adducul.

The accident happened when the passenger jeepney (DEF-258) driven by Santos Cervantes Jr., 38, tried to overtake another vehicle along Araneta Avenue near Caimito Street around 11:30 a.m., police said.

The jeepney hit a fish delivery vehicle (USE-945) and fell on its right side near the St. Gabriel Church, police said.

The impact threw several passengers, including Marzan, out of the jeepney.

The driver of the fish delivery jeepney escaped. Cervantes was arrested.

Police are set to file charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide and physical injuries against Cervantes. He is now detained at the Caloocan police headquarters.

Pasig has 'secret' dump

BY AGNES DONATO

A PASIG City official has claimed that the local government has a dumping site for its garbage, but he refused to reveal the dump's exact location, supposedly to keep it a secret from other towns and cities.

Pasig City administrator Reynaldo Dionisio said about 500 tons of garbage produced by households and establishments in the city are being brought to the dumpsite every day.

"This dumpsite could only accommodate a limited amount of refuse," Dionisio said, explaining why local officials decided to keep mum on the location of the dumpsite.

He said the Pasig government resorted to looking for a dumpsite for its own garbage only because the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority had yet to provide one for the entire metropolis.

"It is our responsibility to our constituents to ensure that cleanliness is maintained in the city," Dionisio said. "It is the local government, not the MMDA, which the residents would blame if the city started to stink."

He boasted that local officials have not received any complaints about noncollection of garbage in their barangays.

"I think people are happy with how we are able to handle the garbage problem," he said.

In San Juan town, the local government is set to buy its own garbage shredder to ease its own growing garbage problem.

But Councilor Rolando Bernardo, chair of the committee on solid waste management, said that although the machine would lessen the volume of the garbage, it would npt provide a long-term solution to the problem.

"Ultimately, we would be needing a dumping area that could accommodate all our garbage," Bernardo said.

At present, San Juan is using a vacant lot at the back of the local police headquarters as a temporary transfer station for its garbage.

Young man slain on his way home

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

FERNANDO C. BITOY, 18, was murdered while he was walking home with his cousin in Quezon City Friday night.

Bitoy, of Barangay Batasan Hills, Quezon City, was shot with a "sumpak" (homemade shotgun) by an unidentified man in front of his cousin Norberto, said PO3 Leo Tabuena of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit.

Police said the gunman, together with several other men, waited for Bitoy at a *sari-sari* store on Sinagtala Street near the San Diego Elementary School.

When Bitoy and his cousin passed by the store about 8 p.m., one of the men called him, Tabuena said.

"The man shouted 'Ding,' so Bitoy approached the store to see who was calling him," Tabuena said. But when Bitoy saw one of the suspects pull out a "sumpak," he tried to run away.

But the gunman was able to take aim at him and fired, Tabuena added.

He said the victim was hit in the back. The gunman and the other suspects escaped.

Norberto tried to save his cousin and took him to the Fairview General Hospital, but it was too late. Bitoy was declared dead about 8:30 p.m.

His body was later transferred to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy, Tabuena said.

Investigators were interviewing witnesses, including Norberto, to get a description of the gunman and his accomplices.

NO SECRET at all is the garbage dump of Las Piñas City in Barangay Daniel Fajardo, whose residents are raising a stink over its presence in their community. Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos (below), in a Senate hearing with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, insists on segregating garbage and blames local government units for the growing piles of trash on Metro Manila's streets.

RANDY HORMILLOSA, JESS YUSON

Missing janitor found dead

THE BODY of a Manila Yacht Club janitor was fished out of the Manila Bay early yesterday morning, two days after he went missing.

The decomposing body of Amancio Cabasan, 39, of FVR GMA, Cavite, was found floating near his sailboat around 5:30 a.m., said SPO1 Edgardo Ko of the Western Police District Homicide Division who identified the finder as fisherman Elbert Lagamot.

Though the body had no external injuries, investigators were looking into the possibility of foul play after they noted blood in the victim's nose.

Cabasan went missing around 10 p.m. Friday after attending a co-worker's birthday party at the Manila Yacht Club's locker room. He later ferried three friends on his rubber boat to the ferry terminal at the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex.

The rubber boat was seen floating in the bay an hour after the group left.

Christian V. Esguerra

3 businesswomen robbed

THREE armed men on Saturday afternoon robbed three businesswomen, took their van and shot their driver near the Valenzuela-Bulacan boundary.

Erlina Tan, and Teresita and Rita Go lost their Toyota Hi-Ace van (UPG-850), cellular phones, and personal belongings to three men who flagged down their vehicle at 12:30 p.m. in Barangay Lawang Bato, Valenzuela, police said.

The robbers also shot driver Alfredo Leobrera, 37, in the chest, police said.

The robbers at gunpoint ordered the driver to stop the van and open the door, investigation showed. When Leobrera refused, the armed men shot him and commandeered the vehicle. The driver is undergoing treatment at the Capitol Medical Center.

The victims said the gunman was between 30 and 35 years old, around 5-foot-4, and had a slim build and a fair complexion. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Agent in JPE carnap case sues NBI man for dismissing him

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

A GOVERNMENT agent, who figured in the alleged theft of former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's sports wagon in 1999, has filed graft charges against a high ranking official of the National Bureau of Investigation for allegedly recommending his dismissal without due course.

NBI investigator John Herra filed charges of graft and violation of the code of conduct of public officials against NBI Deputy Director Lolito Utitco for failing to resolve Herra's motion for reconsideration, according to Herra's lawyer Mario Aguinaldo.

In a letter of complaint filed before the Ombudsman, Aguinaldo said Utitco violated the law and administrative procedures when he recommended to the Department of Justice Herra's dismissal in connection with the Enrile case without resolving the agent's motion for reconsideration.

Aguinaldo said Utitco prematurely submitted Herra's dismissal papers for the approval of Justice Secretary Hernani Perez on July 18, 2001.

Utitco did so as he was the acting director then, when NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco was out of the country.

"Utitco, who is a lawyer, acted with malice and bad faith," Aguinaldo said. "His act is in utter violation of the laws and procedure and a clear attempt to mislead (Perez).

"This has not only preempted the legal remedies available to Herra but has altogether curtailed them. This, to our mind, is a denial of due process to Herra, who has served the NBI with dedication and fidelity."

Herra was recommended for dismissal for alleged gross misconduct and insubordination. He allegedly failed to follow instructions regarding the investigation of his reported involvement in the theft of Enrile's red Mitsubihi Pajero sometime in 1999.

Perez had been quoted in several newspapers as saying that Herra had been dismissed as recommended by the investigator's superiors in the NBI.

INQUIRER sources in the bureau, however, said Perez had returned Herra's dismissal papers to the NBI for the bureau to resolve the agent's motion for reconsideration. Perez has yet to approve the recommendation for dismissal.

Herra continues to work in the NBI criminal records division.

3 stabbed, shot in Pasay, Munti, LP

BY NELSON F. FLORES

TWO MEN were killed while another was injured in three incidents in Pasay City, Muntinlupa and Las Piñas City late Saturday night and early yesterday morning.

Killed were construction worker Edgardo Raniola, 23, a temporary resident of Gloria Street in Pasay City; and Godofredo Manangat, 27, of Upper Sucat, Muntinlupa City.

Police said Raniola died upon arrival at the Pasay City General Hospital from stab wounds in the body. Manangat died from two gunshot wounds at the South Superhighway Hospital, police said.

Marife Villoria, 28, of Green Revolution Extension, CAA Las Piñas City, was walking home with friend when a bullet hit her in the left thigh. She was rushed for treatment to the Olivares General Hospital, police said.

PO2 Edgar Tabuyan of the Pasay police said Raniola was stabbed dead by Gerry Boyles and Arnel Balingit while they were drinking on M. de la Cruz Street at 3:30 a.m. yesterday.

Raniola suffered stab wounds in the back and left side of the body.

Police arrested Boyles who was hiding in a nearby toilet and found on him the knife he allegedly used in the stabbing.

But Balingit, also known as Boy Bulag, is still at large, police said.

Godofredo Manangat was shot while playing inside a billiard hall in Upper Sucat.

PO3 Arnel Pesigan of the Muntinlupa police said Manangat was playing when an unidentified man approached him and shot him twice at close range.

Police said the gunman escaped after the shooting. Prior to the shooting, Manangat was in a shouting match with an unidentified billiard player, police said.

But police have not confirmed if it was the same man who shot dead Manangat.

In Las Piñas, Villoria was walking along Dr. Alejo Santos Avenue with her friends when she was shot in the thigh.

PO3 Roque Tome said it is still not clear who shot Villoria.

But police said Villoria could be a victim of an accidental shooting considering the trajectory of the bullet.

Jail wardens ordered to conduct clean-up, fire safety inspection

THE BUREAU of Jail Management and Penology OIC, Chief Supt. Arturo W. Alit, has ordered jail wardens to conduct thorough fire safety inspection and clean-up of BJMP jails to prevent fire.

Alit said the fire safety inspection should be coordinated with the Bureau of Fire Prevention.

He issued the order in the wake of last month's Manor Hotel fire that killed 74 occupants and injured others.

In a report to Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. and Undersecretary for Peace and Order Wencelito Tan Andanar, the BJMP head said the objective of the fire safety inspection is to determine how fire could be prevented and to save the lives of inmates in case of fire.

Majority of more than 36,000 inmates are detained in BJMP jails in the National Capital Region where the rate of overcrowding is the highest in the country.

Alit said jail facilities do not have the standard requirements for fire safety like business establishments. But there are things a jail warden could do to prevent fires that could be disastrous because of the large number of inmates, especially in the National Capital Region.

He said good housekeeping would help prevent fire. In many instances, fire occurs because of negligence and carelessness, Alit stressed.

He directed jail wardens to create a fire brigade in every jail and to conduct training in case of an emergency.

He said the training could save lives and property.

Alit also ordered the strict enforcement of security measures to prevent illegal drugs from being smuggled into BJMP jails in the country.

He said drug smuggling has not stopped entirely in jails.

Jail guards are in a constant battle of wits against people who resort to various ingenious ways to smuggle prohibited drugs, Alit said.

He also does not discount that drug trafficking has continued in some jails. He said an inmate accused of drug trafficking was found to have in his possession a check for more than P3 million in a recent surprise inspection of the Manila City Jail. This had given rise to suspicion that the man continued to ply his illicit drug trade even from inside the jail, Alit said.

During the surprise inspection, the jail warden was relieved for giving VIP treatment to some inmates.

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Elijah Wood grows up

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

REMEMBER **Elijah Wood** as a child actor in films like "Avalon," "Flipper," "The Good Son" and "Forever Young?" He was so small but it was obvious that he had a huge talent that was ready to be developed when he got older.

True enough, when he was a teenager, Elijah came on strong in movies like "The Ice Storm" and "Deep Impact." But teen roles are generally mere transition points to really challenging young-adult roles that truly define an actor's thespic dimensions, so Elijah has had to turn 20 before coming into his own as a performer.

Luckily for him, his farewell to his inchoate teenage years has been made significantly special by the fact that his launching vehicle as a yong-adult actor is, not just one major film, but a trilogy of important movies, collectively titled "The Lord of the Rings."

Most impressively, all three movies have been shot in a consecutive 15-month period, and will be released sequentially, one at a time, for the next three years.

First to hit the screens later this year (in December) is "The Fellowship of the Ring." Elijah plays **Frodo Baggins**, the lead character of **J.R.R. Tolkien**'s legendary fantasy, who lives in Middle-earth, a land of elves, dwarves and hobbits.

As the first movie's story unfolds, Middle-earth is controlled by an all-powerful ring, and it's left to Frodo and eight other hobbits to journey to the evil domain of Mordor to crush the lords of the ring and save Middle-earth.

Since he's playing a hobbit in the Tolkien trilogy, Elijah is made to look only three feet tall by means of a variety of production-design and technological sleights-of-eye. But his talent is as big as ever, and director **Peter Jackson** ("Heavenly Creatures") makes sure that he is the film's main fulcrum.

It's important that Elijah emerges as a major young-adult star when "The Fellowship of the Ring" is shown at the end of the year.

After all, a staggering total of $300 M has been spent on producing the Tolkien film trilogy, so it's essential that Elijah quickly gains enough clout and bankability to assure the box-office success of the next two films ("The Two Towers" and "The Return of the King.")

If "The Fellowship of the Ring" does only so-so business, it'll be difficult for the next two films to do better. But, if the first movie and Elijah score a big hit at the box office, the other movies in the trilogy will be much easier to sell.

Film production can be a dodgy business even with the best elements working in its favor, but we trust that "The Fellowship of the Ring" will be a triumph for Elijah Wood and company.

After all, he's been doing good work in films for more than 14 years, and that kind of emotional and artistic investment shouldn't go for naught!

TV treats

MONDAY, Sept. 3 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, **Gerard Depardieu** stars as a divorced dad in "My Father, the Hero."

At 9 p.m. on Star Mandarin Movies, the film on view is **Masayuki Ochiai**'s horror film, "Parasite Eve."

Thursday, Sept. 6 at 11 p.m. on Star World, "Friends" starts its new season, still topbilling **Jennifer Aniston, Courtney Cox Arquette, Lisa Kudrow, Matt Le Blanc, Matthew Perry** and **David Schwimmer**.

Sunday, Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m. on Channel [V] Int'l., VJ **Asha** gets together with one of the music world's most popular boy bands in "Asha Meets Westlife." Replay is on Thursday, Sept. 13 at 5 p.m.

Young politicians back entertainers in fighting added tax

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

IT IS ironic that a politician who is not even from show biz is supporting members of the entertainment industry in their campaign to hold off an increase in withholding tax for entertainers.

Councilor **Alejandro "Kim" Atienza** of Manila's 5th District sent us a copy of his resolution in support of the non-implementation of the tax increase.

Even if he is not from show biz, Atienza has many friends in the business. In fact, he has been linked with a number of show biz girls.

His council resolution should help the industry, whose members have been rallying against the additional 10 percent withholding tax to be deducted from their income.

The Manila city council believes the decision increasing the withholding tax is drastic and must be stayed pending further study.

Atienza pointed out that the local movie industry has long been suffering from losses and the tax increase is another blow to entertainers.

The decision increasing the tax was made despite President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**'s declaration in her first State-of-the-Nation Address that there would be no tax increases.

"If such a policy is meant to increase the country's revenues, the entertainers' group should not be singled out as there are other high-income earning professions," Atienza said.

"It is common knowledge that the income of entertainers is never constant. Considering the downward trend in the industry, the government should instead come up with rescue efforts in the form of initiatives and positive reforms."

Atienza said the increase in the withholding tax for entertainers will only worsen the ailing industry.

Anti-piracy in Navotas

ANOTHER non-show biz politician, Navotas Mayor **Toby Tiangco**, is waging a war on piracy in his own town.

Since Mayor Toby believes it is not enough that the Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB) is monitoring piracy all over the country, he created his own raiding team which goes after CD and video pirates in his town.

Mayor Toby said he has warned manufacturers and dealers of pirated CDs and VCDs that they are not welcome in Navotas.

For the first raid, he coordinated with the VRB to confiscate hundreds of illegally copied CDs and VCDs in the town's Agora Market.

The VRB is coordinating closely with the mayor. He said the VRB has authorized him to crack down on video piracy, which is a violation of intellectual property rights.

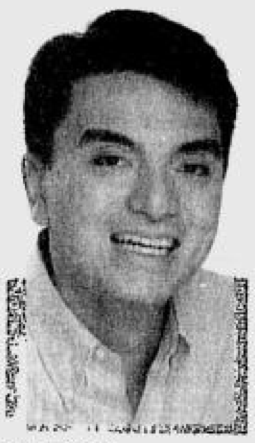
He is aware the illegal trade deprives the government of millions of pesos in uncollected revenues, and producers, singers, composers and actors of royalties.

Mayor Toby also goes after operators of illegal video game arcades that lure mostly the young. Recently, he and his team destroyed 40 "fruit game" slot machines that were hidden in a house in Navotas.

Mayor Toby is only on his first term as elected mayor of Navotas. He was vice mayor when Mayor **Cipriano Bautista** died in May last year.

Mayor Toby hopes to complete three terms as mayor before aspiring for a higher public office. By the end of three terms as mayor, he'll be only 43.

ATIENZA



TIANGCO

Ryan's new songbook

WE received a copy of "Mass for Peace," a songbook of religious tunes by composer **Ryan Cayabyab**, who wrote the songs while Edsa II was unfolding.

Ryan said he was moved to write many of the songs after he mingled with the throng at Edsa and after watching the historical event on TV.

He dedicates the "Mass for Peace" songbook to Our Lady of Peace at Edsa Shrine, People Power II and Concertante Philippines, one of the resident choirs of the Edsa Shrine composed of alumni from the UP Concert Chorus.

Ryan said funding for the book was raised with the help of **Fernando Zobel de Ayala**.

"I promised him I would not mention his good deed," Ryan wrote in the letter that went with the songbook. "But I cannot help mentioning this to you. I also promised that I would sell the books at the lowest price possible so that we could have them reprinted as soon as we sell all the first copies."

"Mass for Peace" contains 14 songs and goes for only P35. It will be launched tomorrow, Sept. 4, at the Mega Trade Hall, Function Room B, SM Megamall Building B.

Concertante Philippines will perform the songs in the book. The group serves the Edsa Shrine music ministry.

The launch is Book Wagon's contribution to the project.

"Mass for Peace" contains songs that can be sung during Mass, like "Panginoon Maawa Ka," "Luwalhati sa Diyos," "Aleluya," "Santo, Santo, Santo," "Kordero ng Diyos."

"Ama Namin" from "Magnificat" is also part of the songbook, as well as two beautiful hymns, "Memorare" and the "Prayer of Saint Francis of Asissi."

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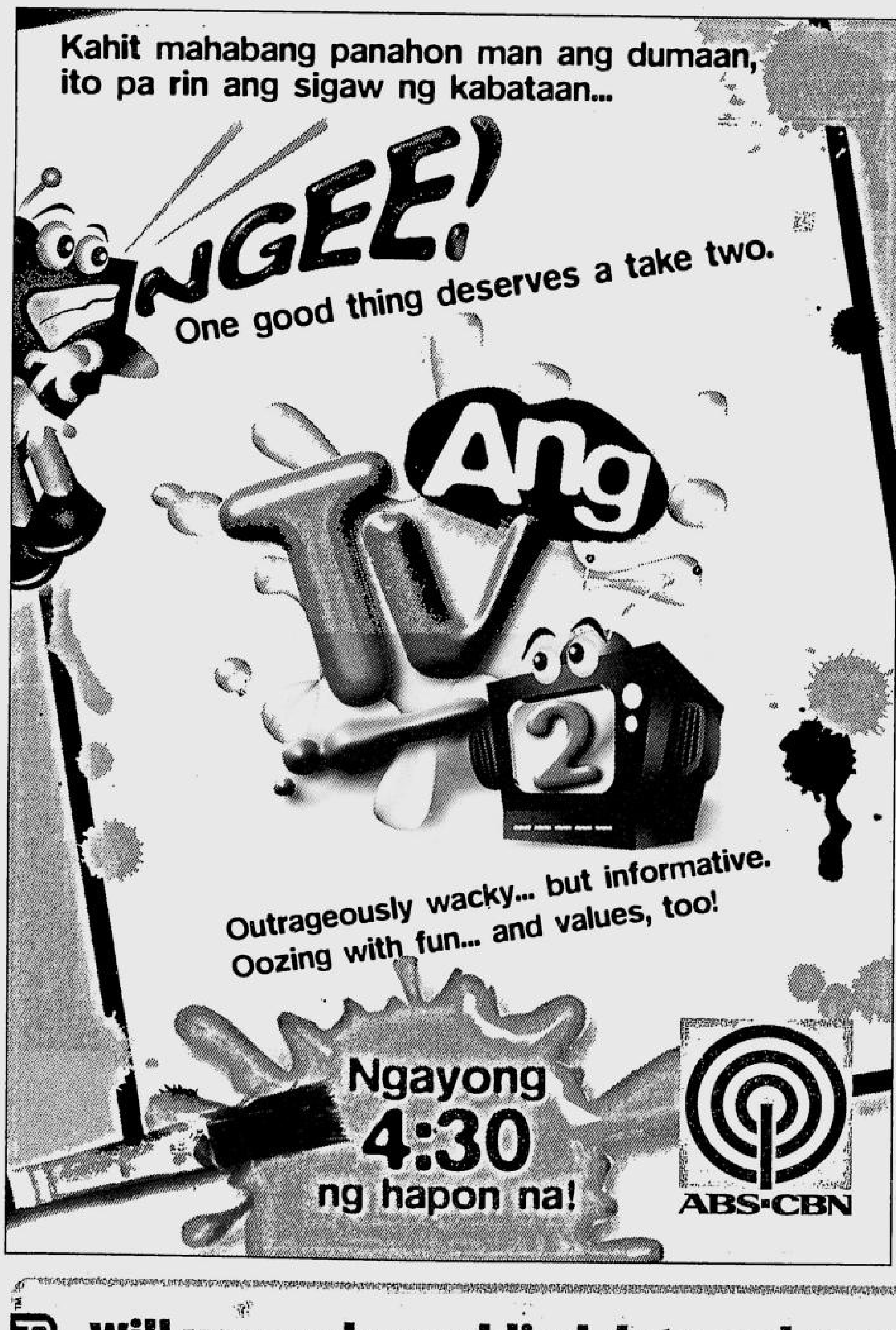
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A modern man of the Church

(From page A29)

the majesty of what has been handed down through the centuries.

In Bishop Soc I see an inclusive leader, someone who at just 40 years old will have an easy time relating and reaching out to the majority of young Catholics. In politics we always worry about our leadership succession. Fortuitously, in things spiritual, because after all the Church is God's corporation, we were given a divine choice.

Whispered

Some sidelights. You know me; I take note of everything. Senate President Drilon and Chief Justice Davide wore the exact same style of Ferragamo black leather shoes, with the ubiquitous buckle. Must be the "power shoe" in the country.

I've always been close to Tito Frank ever since my teenage years when he was a member of my mom's Cabinet. He's a very warm person and cool enough that you can kid around with him.

The ceremony lasted nearly three hours and there was a point when the Senate president started snoring. I peppered him with questions regarding the Senate investigation and what he thought of the testimonies of Ador, Devnani and Rosebud testimonies.

I can't divulge to you what we whispered about, but Tito Frank gave some very astute observations and a pragmatic reading of the current national situation.

Hope

Anjo and **Jomari Yllana** were present in the ordination. Bishop Villegas, when he was still monsignor, had baptized Jomari and Aiko's son Andre, and he had wed the couple as well just last July.

Bishop Soc's only sister is married to the brother of Anjo and Jom's now-deceased dad. The guys have become very close to Bishop Soc because they are the only Yllanas left in the Philippines. All their dad's siblings and their families are already US residents.

Bishop Soc is the only Villegas left here with his *nanay*. His brother's family lives in Canada and his sister's family is in Texas.

I told Jom that now that the monsignor is Bishop Soc, maybe there's still hope for reconciliation for Jom and my *kumare*. Jom said he had called up Aiko when he found out about the "promotion" of Monsignor Soc and he had asked her to set aside some time for them to meet with him and have a counselling session.

I asked Anjo when he and Jackie would have their church ceremony and he told me definitely be sometime in 2002.

During the luncheon after the ordination, Brother **Mike Velarde** passed by. My mom said he would normally not mind her, but there must have been a friendly air and he said hello and made some small talk with her.

'CARAVAN OF STARS' AT SM CITY

Rachel Alejandro entertains the crowd with a song and dance number during Western Union's "Caravan of Stars" roadshow held recently at the entertainment plaza of SM City North Edsa. A total of US100 and Western Union gift packs were given away to three major prize winners. The road show will also go to Pangasinan, Davao, Vigan, Las Piñas and Quezon City.

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Kindness of strangers helps heal Jon-Jon

By Mandy Navasero

THE RESPONSE to the appeal for help for Jon-Jon Gutierrez Jr., 15, is overwhelming, to say the least.

Jon-Jon has SSPE (subacute sclerosing pancephalitis), a complication from measles. His story was first featured here in the Aug. 2 edition.

The day the story came out, Margie Juico summoned this writer and Melon Recto-Silverio to the Cojuangco Building in Makati. There, we found former President Corazon Aquino, who was still beaming with thankfulness following her grandson Joshua's miraculous survival without major injuries after a freak accident involving a Ford Expedition last Aug. 1.

In thanksgiving for her own grandson's survival, Cory said she wanted to help Jon-Jon. She gave a check for P30,000.

She was only one of the many people, including those who did not want to be identified, who gave help and hope for Jon-Jon.

Jon-Jon's condition was a late complication of the measles he had when he was 1 year old, according to doctors. The condition can be treated, and doctors prescribed IVIG (Intravenous Immune Globulin) solution.

A 2,500-mg vial of the solution costs P4,450. Jon-Jon needed five vials a day for five consecutive days.

Jon-Jon is the 7th of the 13 children of housewife Linda and driver Juanito who earns P4,500 a month.

On Aug. 3, the day after his story appeared here and after the donations started coming, Jon-Jon checked into a pay ward with six other patients at the Philippine General Hospital. His attending physician, Dr. Aida Mendoza-Salonga, chair of the PGH Department of Neuro-Sciences and section chair for neurology under the Department of Pediatrics, had the 25 IVIG vials given to Jon-Jon for five straight days.

Two days after the IVIG infusion, Jon-Jon started his therapy and intake of Rivitrol, Togretol and Isonisiprin as sustenance medicines.

When I visited Jon-Jon on Aug. 19, I saw that the improvement, no matter how little, brought joy to his mother. Jon-Jon had a white rosary around his left wrist, a scapular around his neck and a little booklet of prayer near his head.

On Aug. 22, a tube was inserted into his stomach for easier food absorption.

On Aug. 27, Jon-Jon checked out of the PGH, but he continues to have therapy and sustenance medicines at home in Makati City.

The other donors are Juris Soliman, P10,500; former Justice Carolina Aquino, 3 vials; "Tiger Woods," 3 vials; Anonymous, 4 vials; Ben Yalung, 1 vial; Anonymous, 20 vials;

Aventis, P35,000; Capt. E. Gualberto and Capt. D. Malic Jr., P7,000; Anonymous, P5,000; Renato Anchu, P2,000; Rotary Club South West D-3780 c/o Dir. Rene S. Gutierrez, P2,500; Mary Salvacion, P5,000; Eric Santiago, P1,000; Pineda, P3,500;

Rosalinda Tan Soo, P1,500; Honey Regala, P500; Cindy Sy, P1,500; Rachel Basilio, P10,000; Henry Ang, P3,500; Elena Gomez, P3,500; Anonymous, P3,500; Equalivet Inc., P10,000; Eduardo Escobar, P500;

Eduardo Batucan, P1,000; Anonymous, P5,000; Jose Mari Morasa, P10,000; John and Flor McLean, P3,500; Helen Osias, P10,000; Marian Santos, P1,000; Pinky Achacoso, P3,500; Joy Coronel, P1,000;

Anonymous, P1,000; Cecilia Yulo, P2,000; MY Trading, P2,000; Annette Ty, P1,000; Natividad Espiritu, P3,500; Norberto Gomez, P1,000; E. Gomez, P3,500; Thelma Catahan, P1,000; Solid Gold, P1,000; St. Columban's Foreign Mission Society, P4,450; Maedan Enterprises, P17,500;

Anonymous, P7,000; Philtrust FEU branch from Mrs. Ang, Mrs. Go, Mr. and Mrs. Pe, Mr. and Mrs. Tan, Mr. and Mrs. Ng and Mrs. Whang, P25,000; Friends of the PGH c/o Baby Caparas, P3,500; Japer Printmaster, P3,500; Dr. Mariano B. Caparas, P3,000 for 11 days of Jon Jon's board and lodging at PGH;

Ray Songcuan of La Union, P500; Patricia P. Dipasupil of Baguio, P1,000; Rosario Africa, P3,500; Catherine and Virgilio Cabezon, P57,000; Ramon Lacson, P100;

Brian Jacinto, 6 years old, P3,500; Clarissa Pimentel, P500; Wellkraft Interiors, P2,000; Gina Agir, P1,000; Pharma Zuellig c/o Karen Villanueva, boxes of Rivotril and Tegretol; Charity Gutierrez of Batangas, Jean Lopez, Rosanne Pineda, P3,500;

Henry Abella, Mrs. Libre, P1,500; Henry Ang, P3,500;

Dr. Jocelyn Ilaya of Balanga, Bataan, Anonymous, P300; and GGP, P370.

The mother of Aldrin Sarian, 15, who is an SSPE Stage III-B case and former wardmate of Jon-Jon in Room 445, volunteered two photos of John Mark Sarmiento, who at one time was also an SSPE patient at PGH.

With medication and therapy, John Mark improved to Stage I.

Late at night on Aug. 23, I received a call from Jessica Abarri, 37, from Tetuan, Zamboanga. She had come to Manila with her son JB, a bright and religious 11-year-old boy. Mother and son are temporarily staying with a friend, who is the caretaker of a colonel's house in Camp Crame, where Melon and I visited them.

On Aug. 25, JB was admitted into PGH Ward 9. From Stage I-B in May 2001, JB's tests revealed he had deteriorated to SSPE Stage II-B.

He initially received nine IVIG vials from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo through the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, one vial from Rep. Maria Clara Lobregat and seven excess vials from Jon-Jon. Anthony and Tita Trillo gave P42,000 worth of vials.

At the PGH, a story about Diane, 9, is being told. She was a Stage m-B SSPE and is now in Stage I-B. She walks to her therapy room and has some form of speech.

The PGH doctors are collating data regarding SSPE cases in the Philippines and are organizing a support group for parents and relatives.

It is hoped that this article will bring awareness to parents and government health centers and underline the need for a more aggressive immunization program against measles nationwide, especially in depressed areas.

As of today, there is no known specific cure for SSPE. Dr. Salonga is collating all relevant clinical data to support future studies. Immunization remains the front-line preventive defense for SSPE.

For more details, please call this writer at 522-1901 or 522-1905 and Melon Silverio at 895-4718.

TO INSPIRE the mothers of other SSPE children, the mother of John Mark Sarmiento left these photos of him before (left) and after treatment began.

JON-JON Gutierrez in the Aug. 2 photo published here (above), and a few days after treatment started. Jon-Jon is now an outpatient of the PGH.

Manila meat inspectors undergo 'world-class' training

FIFTEEN meat inspectors from the Manila government recently underwent training to help authorities ensure the safety of meat being sold and distributed in the city's markets and slaughterhouses.

City Hall said in a press statement that the newly trained Veterinary Inspection Board personnel are expected to continue to study and make sure that only high-standard and world-class meat are sold in Manila.

City veterinarian and VIB chair Jose Dias said the VIB employees were the first to undergo the comprehensive training course in meat inspection. He said the training included topics such as anatomy and physiology of livestock and poultry, waste management and hygiene, legal aspects of meat inspection, city ordinances and others. *Jerome Aning*

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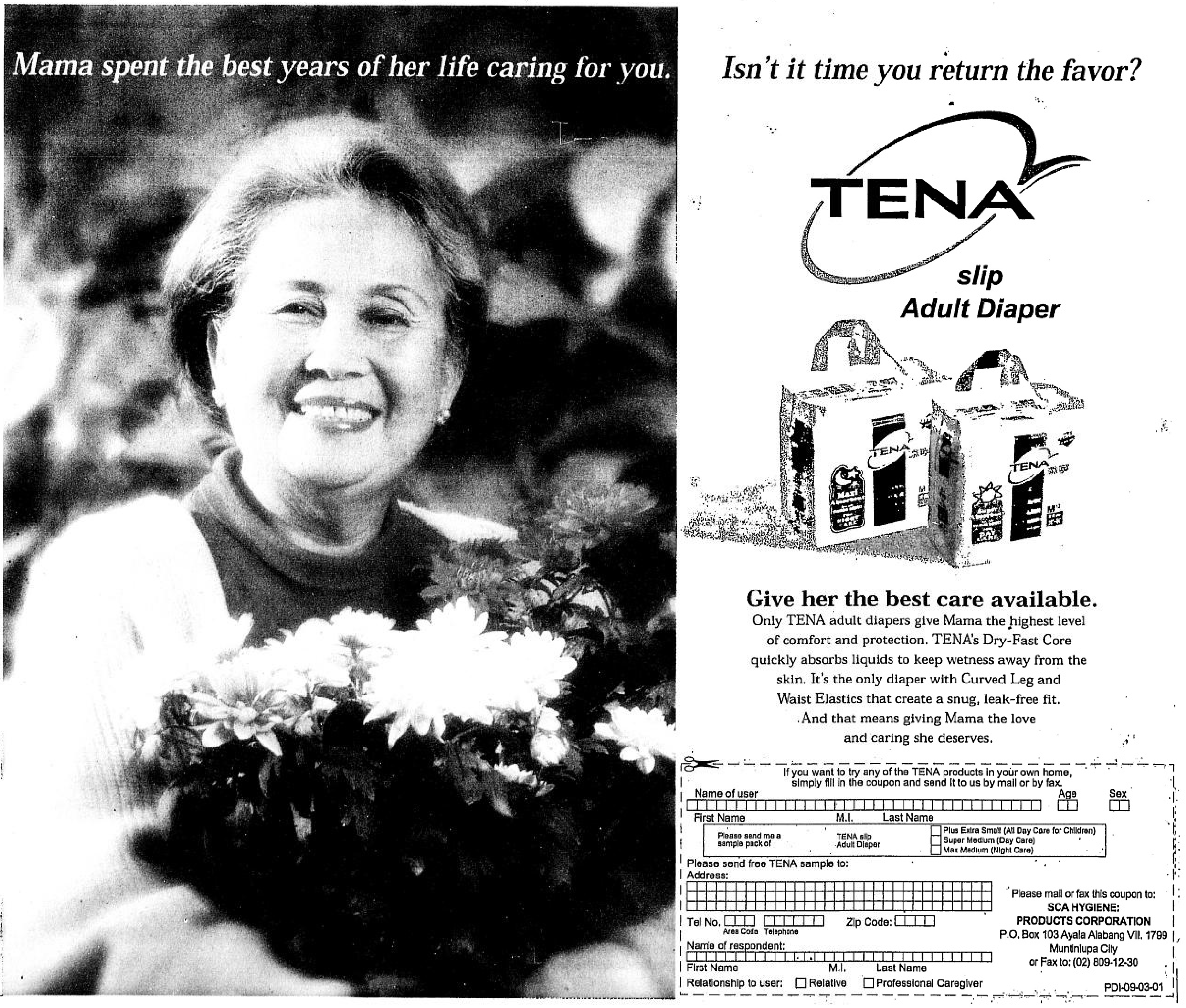

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2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	RADYO
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	SHREK
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
10	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
11	SEX MEDUSA
12	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	SHREK
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	ANIMAL
6	MOULIN ROUGE
7	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
8	SEX MEDUSA
9	RUSH HOUR 2
10	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
11	RUSH HOUR 2
12	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6339401

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4	SHREK
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	ANIMAL
7	SEX EDUCATION
8	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	RUSH HOUR 2
11	SEX MEDUSA
12	RADYO

SM TUTUBAN
2514302

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9260452

1	SEX MEDUSA
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	SHREK
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	PLANET OF THE APES
8	RUSH HOUR 2
9	MOULIN ROUGE
10	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
11	RADYO
12	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
2	SEX MEDUSA
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4	SHREK
5	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
6	BROTHERHOOD
7	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	RUSH HOUR 2
10	SEX EDUCATION

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820805

1	SEX EDUCATION
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RUSH HOUR 2

SM CEBU
2313636

1	SHREK
2	ANIMAL
3	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOLS
4	KAMASUTRA 2001
5	VENUS
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	PLANET OF THE APES

SM ILOILO
3209422

1	RADYO
2	CLOSED
3	SHREK
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	ANIMAL
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	CLOSED
8	CATS & DOGS

SM PAMPANGA
7126015

1	SHREK
2	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SM SUCAT
8294075

1	SHREK
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

SM DAVAO

1
2
3
4
5
6

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GLORIETTA 1
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1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN	
2	RUSH HOUR 2	
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN	

GLORIETTA 4

1	SHREK	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	RUSH HOUR 2	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	RUSH HOUR 2 THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	PLANET OF THE APES (Art Film)	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	RUSH HOUR 2	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	XIU XIU: THE SENT DOWN GIRL (Phil. Premiere)	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	RUSH HOUR 2	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SHREK	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE! AUG. 30, 31 & SEPT. 1 - 8PM Onstage	

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1	RUSH HOUR 2 THX	In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	RUSH HOUR 2	In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	SHREK	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	PLANET OF THE APES	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
2 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
3 (DTS)	SHREK
4 GOLD (DTS)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	MOULIN ROUGE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
8 [illegible]	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
9 [illegible]	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10 [illegible]	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	
3 (DTS)	BROTHERHOOD
4	
5	
6 (DTS) Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2 (DTS)	SEX EDUCATION
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	SEX EDUCATION

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	IRA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
5	SEX EDUCATION

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	SEX EDUCATION
3	SEX MEDUSA
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	IRA
6	RUSH HOUR 2
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7053152 - 56

OPENS SEPT. 5, 2001

A.I. (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	COOL DUDE
2	FINAL FANTASY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	RESERVE
2	BROTHERHOOD
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
A	SEX EDUCATION

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	SEX EDUCATION
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 (DTS)	SHREK
8 (SDDS)	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
9 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
5	SEX MEDUSA
6 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
7 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
8	KISS OF THE DRAGON
9	VENUS

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RESERVE
4	VENUS
5 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	KAMASUTRA 3
Lords	KABIYAK
Jennet	RESERVE

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	SHREK
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5	MOULIN ROUGE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	SEX EDUCATION

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	SEX MEDUSA
3	SEX EDUCATION

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	SEX MEDUSA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
2 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DOLBY)	SHREK
4	BROTHERHOOD

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DOLBY)	SHREK
3 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
4	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	TOM CATS
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	SEX EDUCATION
3	BEDROOM SECRET
4 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BROTHERHOOD
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS)	SHREK
4	IRA
5	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	IRA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	SHREK
3	IRA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANINN
3	IRA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
3	SHREK

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2365

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	IRA
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	IRA
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
3	COOL DUDES
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	CRAZY BEAUTIFUL
4 (DTS ES)	PLANET OF THE APES

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2	SHREK
3	BRIDGIT JONE'S DIARY
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	MOULIN ROUGE
8	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	RUSH HOUIR 2
2	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
3	SHREK
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
7	PLANET OF THE APES

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	RESERVED
2	SHREK
3	RESERVED
4	SHREK
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	PLANET OF THE APES

IMUS
(046) 471-6168

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	PLANET OF THE APES
4	SHREK
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	ANIMAL
3	MOULIN ROUGE
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5	COOL DUDES
6	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

SOON TO OPEN

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	RADYO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SHREK
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BROTHERHOOD
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SEX EDUCATION
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ARAY/ OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
ODEON	RUSH HOUR 2
ODEON-2	SEX EDUCATION
ROBEN	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
TANDEM-1	TURN ON
TANDEM-2	PARU PARONG LIGAW
TIMES	WOMAN ON TOP/ VALENTINE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	RUSH HOUR 2
QUEZON-1	RUSH HOUR 2
REMAR	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
REMAR-2	SEX EDUCATION
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-2	JAPAN ANIME' FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-3	RADYO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BROTHERHOOD
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-7	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
CINEMA-8	IRA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SHREK
CINEMA-12	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-14	SCREAM
CINEMA-15	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
CINEMA-2	SHREK
CINEMA-3	SHREK
CINEMA-4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-5	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-6	PLANET OF THE APES
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	FIGHTING BACK
CINEMA-2	SAMBAHIN ANG PURI KO
CINEMA-4	HAYOP SA GANDA

GUEVARRA

Gold record award

TOOTSIE Guevarra received a gold record award for her third album, "Sa Puso Ko," under Star Records.

The album is bannered by the carrier single, "Nang Dahil sa Pag-ibig," composed by Larry Hermoso. Tootsie is now preparing to launch the second single from the album, "Sa Puso," penned by award-winning composer and record producer Vehnee Saturno.

One of the most successful young OPM hitmakers today, Tootsie has managed to keep her career going despite her hectic schedule at St. Paul's College Quezon City, where she is taking up hotel and restaurant management.

Tootsie is set to graduate this October, making her one of the few young show biz personalities who have managed to finish their studies and get a college degree.

Tootsie produced such OPM hits as "Kaba" and "Pasulyap-Sulyap."

Tootsie continues to be visible on the boob-tube. She is regularly seen as host of the top-rating Sunday noontime show, "Asap," on ABS-CBN.

She recently appeared on the fantasy series, "Wansapanatym," where she played a goddess.

Tootsie's career is managed by the husband and wife team of Ronnie and Ida Henares of Primeline Inc.

Mindave singing contest

MINDAVE Entertainment Corp. invites singers to join its singing competition every Sunday night for the adults and children categories at Padi's Mindave Restaurant Bar in Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City.

The finalist winners for August are 23-year-old music student Eric Sanchez of Philippine Women's University and 28-year-old security guard Jun Torres of Malabon.

The Mindave Battle of the Bands will also start this month.

Padi's Mindave owner and writer Wilson Y. Lee Flores hopes to help discover and nurture new talents in music, painting, literature, sculpture and other arts.

Flores has invited award-winning English and Filipino poets of the Unyon ng Mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas (Umpil) to hold a poetry reading session as front-act to the Sept. 29 special concert featuring Side A Band. The unique event will be called "Night of Music and Poetry with Side A."

For inquiries, call 453-0080, 414-4930 to 34 or 925-3117.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Brian McKnight returns to Manila

MCKNIGHT. Promotes his latest album, "Superhero."

BRIAN McKnight has shown himself to be a force to reckon with since his recording debut in 1992.

Since that platinum album, each of McKnight's CDs has gone multi-platinum, spawning more than 13 hit singles.

In his illustrious career, McKnight has worked with Take 6, Christina Aguilera, Shelby Lynn, Nelly and Alicia Keys, positioning himself to have mass appeal from R&B to pop to hip-hop audiences worldwide.

Through his gracious lyrics and beautiful voice, McKnight has become a superhero to music lovers. Now he's paying tribute to the everyday superhero through his latest album, "Superhero," under MCA Universal.

McKnight will visit Manila to promote the album on radio and TV, Sept. 13-15.

In "Superhero," McKnight's 5th R&B outing, the artist introduces his dynamic talents with "Love of My Life," a smooth ballad that will send female fans in a frenzy with its hypnotic tones.

For the other tracks in the album, McKnight collaborated with other artists. "My Kind of Girl" features N'Sync's Justin Timberlake. "When Will I See You Again" features Fred Hammond, "I Don't Know Where to Start," features Nate Dogg and the bonus track "Groovin' Tonight," features Nelly and the St. Lunatics.

A modern man of the Church

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

LAST Friday, I attended the ordination of Monsignor **Soc Villegas** to auxiliary Bishop of Manila. It was a touching occasion because it coincided with Cardinal Sin's 73rd birthday.

The event was set for 9 a.m. sharp. That meant that I had to be up by 6:30 a.m. in order to be made up and ready to leave our Times Street residence by 8 a.m. My mom is a stickler for punctuality and when she says 8, that's normally 7:55 a.m. For most in my profession, 11 a.m. is considered an early appointment since we don't normally pack it up until 2 a.m.

My mom said I must have been sick because by the time she came out of her bedroom, I was dressed and ready. She said that I must really hold Bishop Soc in such high esteem.

That's true. Apart from the fact that his mom supplies **Josh** and me with our favorite *balut* from their hometown of Pateros, Bishop Soc has seen me through a lot in my life. Most personal of all is the fact that I said my confession to him when we first learned I was expecting Josh.

Add to that the fact that he's been my text buddy ever since Cardinal Sin spearheaded the anti-Erap protests after the Chavit Singson exposé last October.

Gifted

Bishop Soc succeeds in making the Church modern and friendly, in tune with the times and sensitive to the needs and sentiments of the flock. Yet he's still a gifted sermon writer and orator, a charismatic, principled leader who guides his faithful with steadfast, moral courage.

I always tell Bishop Soc that he should tell other priests to follow his lead as far as giving sermons is concerned. His sermons are always well-written, connecting the Gospel lesson with current events, and they have the unique and outstanding characteristic of brevity. Come on, be honest, it's hard to concentrate on any sermon, regardless of the beauty of the message if it exceeds 15 minutes, right?

The well-attended ordination last Friday was a testament to the important role that Bishop Soc has in the archdiocese. President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** was there, as well as Chief Justice **Hilario Davide**. And graciously giving up his seat for me was my *kumpare*, Senate President **Frank Drilon** (his only daughter **Liza** is my *inaanak* in her Confirmation).

Majestic

Most touching in the entire ceremony was how choked up with emotion Cardinal Sin and Bishop Soc were after the Cardinal laid his hands on Bishop Soc's head. My heart swelled upon the sight of a mentor embracing his beloved protegé during a long-awaited moment of well-deserved triumph.

Some would criticize the Catholic Church for continuing its traditions of pageantry and ceremony, and would say the Church isn't sensitive to the plight of majority of its believers. But having seen it first hand, I appreciated the sense of history and continuity I witnessed.

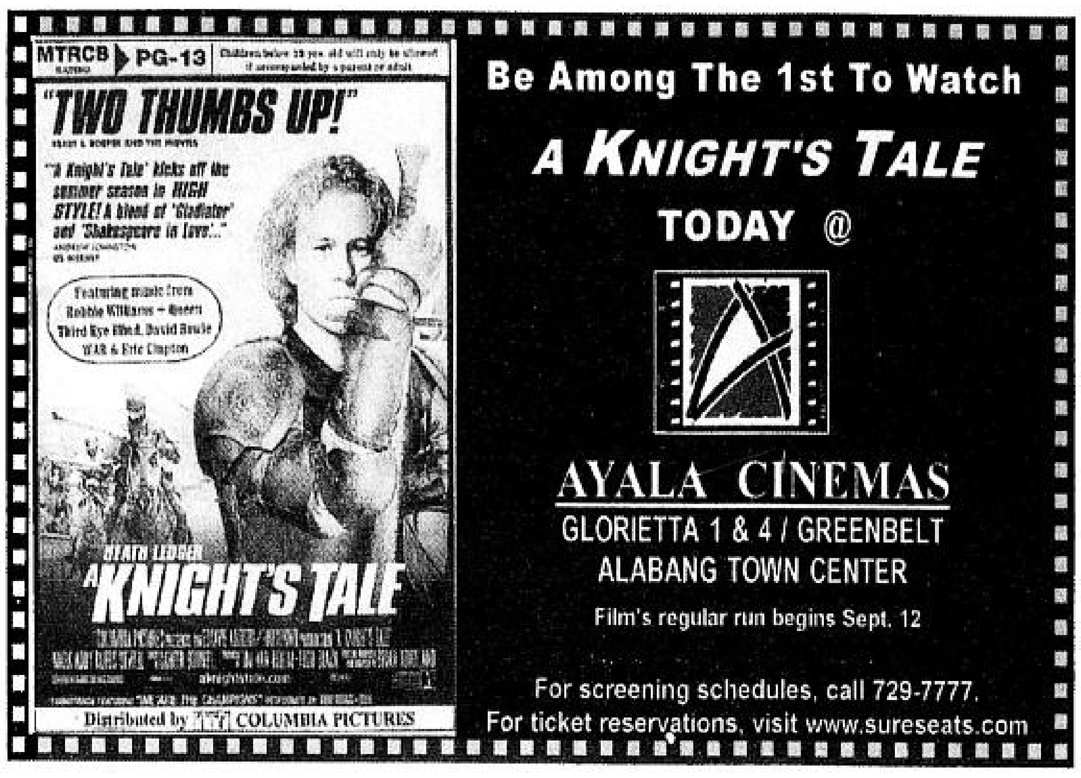
Ours is the only religion that can be traced back to Jesus and his 12 apostles, and we should honor

A MODERN/ A26

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY - P 13 11:45, 1:50, 3:55, 6:00, 8:05, 10:10	A KNIGHT'S TALE - P 13 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	SHREK - GP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN - GP 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	MOULIN ROUGE - P 13 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	PLANET OF HE APES - P 13 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45

Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri, 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.



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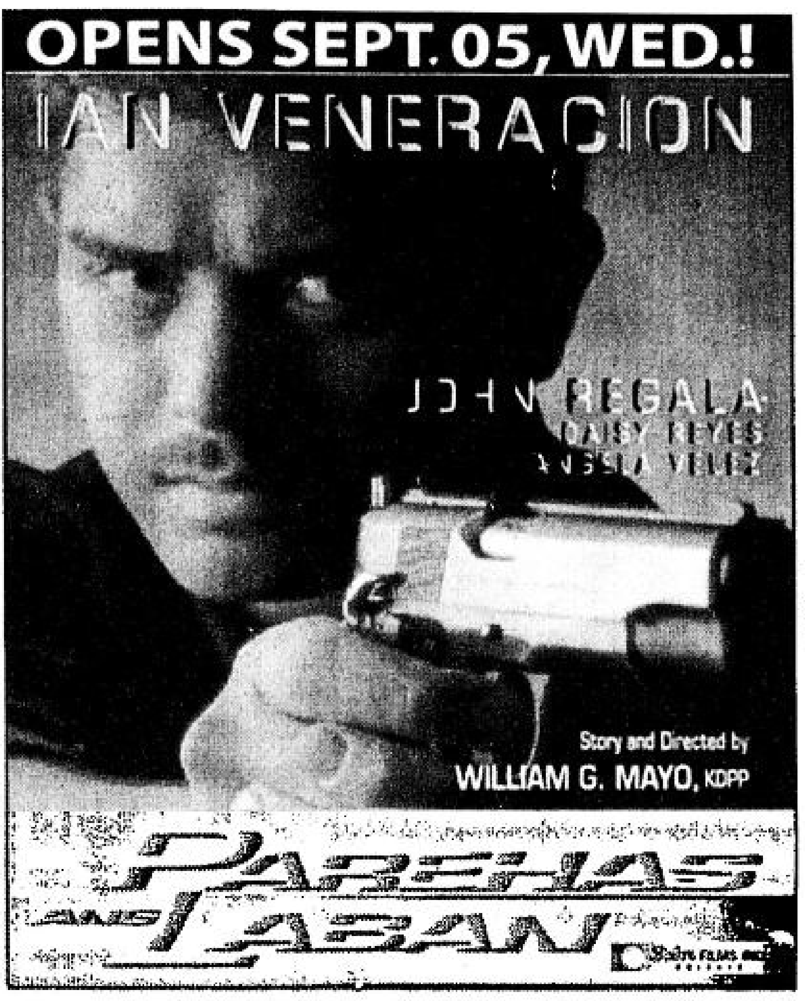
For ticket reservations, visit www.sureseats.com



OPENS SEPT. 05, WED.!
IAN VENERACION
JOHN REGALA
DAISY REYES
ANGELA VELEZ
Story and Directed by WILLIAM G. MAYO, KDPP
PAREHAS ANG LABAN

He Will Roock You!
SNEAK PREVIEW TOMORROW!
REGULAR RUN BEGINS SEPT 12!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
"TWO THUMBS UP!" EBERT & ROEPER AND THE MOVIES
"A Knight's Tale' kicks off the summer season in HIGH STYLE! A blend of 'Gladiator' and 'Shakespeare in Love'..." ANDREW JOHNSTON US WEEKLY
Featuring music from Robbie Williams + Queen Third Eye Blind, David Bowie WAR & Eric Clapton
HEATH LEDGER
A KNIGHT'S TALE
aknightstale.com
SOUNDTRACK FEATURING "WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS"
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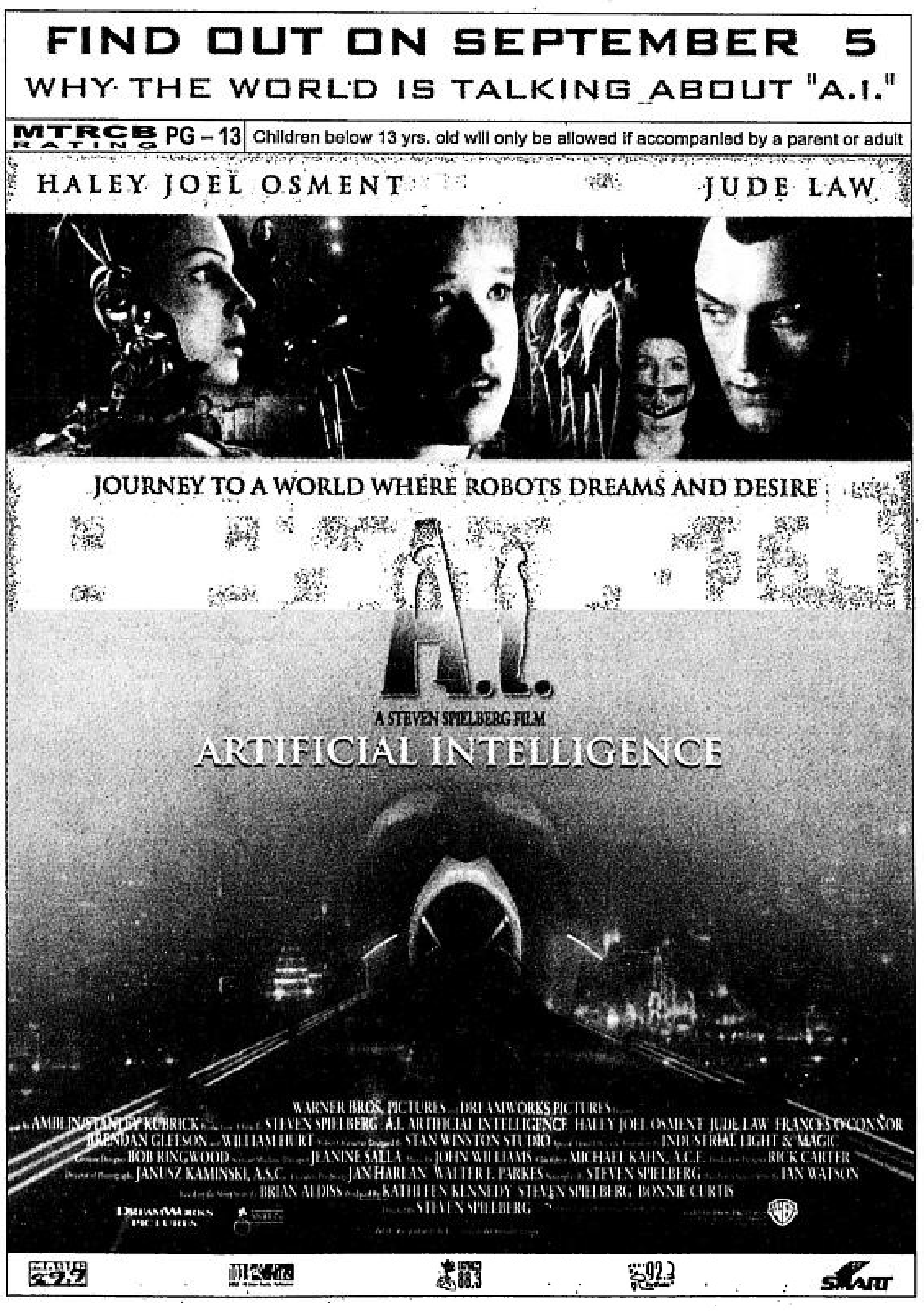

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HALEY JOEL OSMENT JUDE LAW
JOURNEY TO A WORLD WHERE ROBOTS DREAMS AND DESIRE
A.I.
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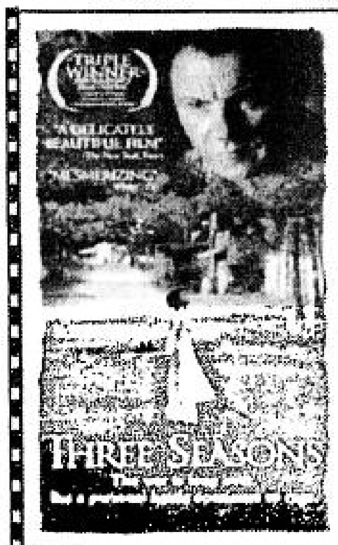

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THREE SEASONS
Starring: Harvey Keitel, Lola Ai Guimond, Don Duong & Nguyen Ngoc Hiep
Three Seasons tells three tangentially related stories: a romance between a forward-thinking prostitute and a cyclo driver; a street kid who loses his case of cheap trinkets; and a student of a reclusive teacher/poet who has lost his fingers to leprosy. Each of the stories is quite simple, but together they create a complex, layered experience of a country simultaneously caught up in its own past, present and future.
Vietnamese-American Bui's film has the distinction of being the first American production to shoot in Vietnam since the War. A cinematic poem that works more as a reflective mood piece than a traditional story, Bui's lyrical script and Rinzler's magical camera work combine to create an original, lasting motion picture.
Language: Vietnamese w/ English sub-titles

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
SNEAK PREVIEW
HE WILL ROCK YOU
A KNIGHT'S TALE
HEATH LEDGER MARK ADDY RUFUS SEWELL
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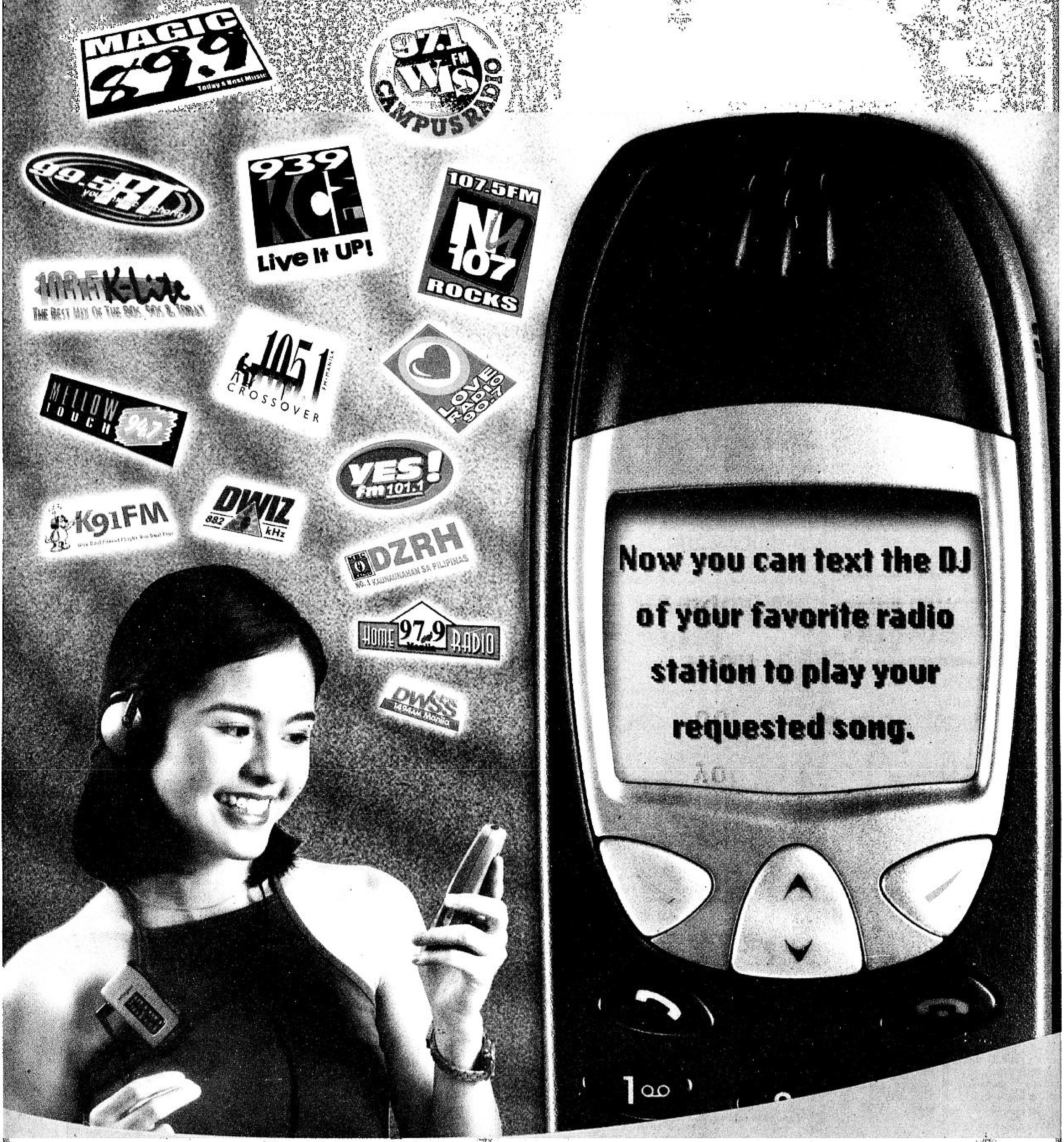
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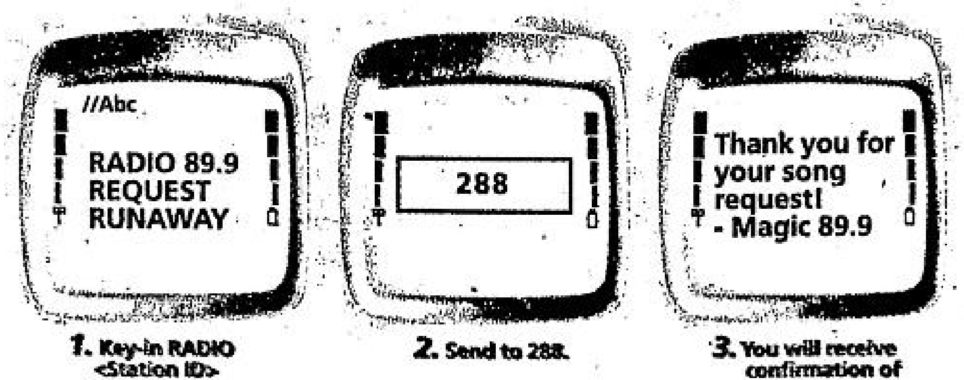
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BUSINESS
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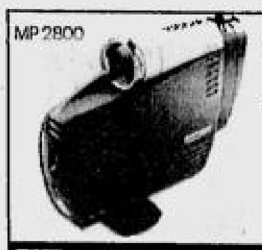

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Gov't to remove tariffs on inputs

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CABINET-LEVEL Tariff and Related Matters has agreed in principle to waive all duties on capital equipment and raw and semi-processed materials not produced locally to provide some relief to domestic industries that are facing slumping sales due to weak local and overseas markets.

A Department of Trade and Industry source said the TRM has ordered the Department of Finance to review the impact of the duty exemption on these products and to draw up measures to mitigate its possible effects, such as imposing a nominal one-percent duty to cover administrative expenses.

The DTI source said the government would also review the list of raw and semi-processed materials that would be covered by the duty exemption to ensure that they have no alternative or substitute locally produced products.

This is important because unscrupulous traders could take advantage of the duty exemption in bringing in materials that can be used to substitute for inputs that are locally available.

The raw and semi-processed materials and capital equipment are currently slapped a 3-percent duty. The DOF had estimated that the government would forego roughly P1.2 billion in potential revenues if the duty would be reduced to zero.

The TRM's decision is a victory for the DTI, which has been pushing for the granting of duty exemptions to help local manufacturers stay afloat amid tough economic conditions. It has locked horns on this issue with the DOF, which had strongly opposed the DTI proposal. The DOF earlier said it was willing to grant waivers only on a selective basis.

The Federation of Philippine Industries has been lobbying for zero duty on the local industries' raw and semi-processed materials to enable them to keep down their costs. FPI said the government should not slap duties on these goods because they were not produced locally and, therefore, there were no local industries to protect.

Sale of PNOC stake in Malampaya seen

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration is considering selling the 10-percent stake of state-owned Philippine National Oil Co. Exploration Corp. in the $2-billion Malampaya natural gas project.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the Departments of Finance and Energy were toying with the idea of selling the PNOC-EC's 10-percent stake in the Malampaya project through the stock market to raise revenue for the government and help stimulate activities in the local bourse.

Camacho, however, was quick to add that this was just an option open to the government that was still being discussed.

The move was seen to reverse the initiative of the previous administration to maintain minor government participation in major projects like Malampaya.

If the plan pushes through, the sale will raise for the government at least $200 million. A source said this amount was even conservative considering that the project was expected to earn at least $500 million yearly starting 2002.

Camacho said the plan was for the PNOC-EC to sell its Malampaya stake as a secondary

SALE/ B2

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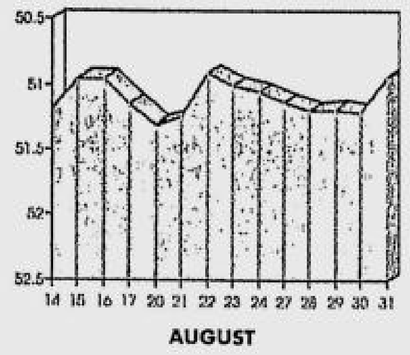

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As of 5 p.m.,
August 31, 2001

¥ 118.92 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
August 31, 2001

GOLD:$275.40/275.90

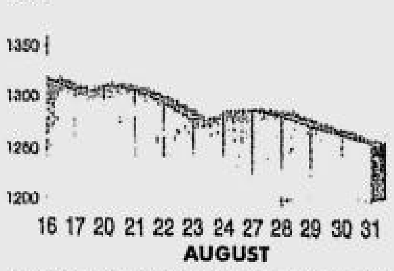
per ounce Hong Kong,
August 31, 2001

Aug. 31, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.090513	1.000000	51.2100
Japan	Yen	0.009145	0.008386	0.4294
United Kingdom	Pound	1.589967	1.458000	74.6642
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.139989	0.128370	6.5738
Switzerland	Franc	0.659637	0.604887	30.9763
Canada	Dollar	0.706062	0.647459	33.1564
Singapore	Dollar	0.624327	0.572508	29.3181
Australia	Dollar	0.580987	0.532765	27.2829
Bahrain	Dinar	2.892760	2.652661	135.8428
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.291581	0.267380	13.6925
Brunei	Dollar	0.621906	0.570288	29.2044
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000122	0.000112	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.024672	0.022624	1.1586
UAE	Dirham	0.296980	0.272331	13.9461
Korea	Won	0.000856	0.000785	0.0402
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.917000	46.9596
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.468855	24.0101
France	Franc	0.152450	0.139796	7.1590
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.416116	21.3093
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066641	3.4127
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022732	1.1641
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000474	0.0243
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.154228	7.8980
Portugal	Escudo	0.000517	0.000474	0.0243
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005511	0.2822
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022732	1.1641
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.16435	59.6264

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B6)

Shares up

SHARES clawed back from fresh 10-month lows to end marginally higher Friday following late bargain hunting in select blue chips Ayala Land Inc. and Manila Electric Co. B-shares.

Apart from bargain hunting, month-end window dressing by some funds, which still have holdings in the battered Philippine market may have contributed to the market's firmer close, traders said.

The main index edged up 2.53 points, or 0.20 percent, to end at 1,265.44 points after hitting 1,254.41 points, the lowest since October last year.

The index traded in a tight range of only about 11 points during the session. For the week, the market was down 1.6 percent, or 20.63 points.

Reuters

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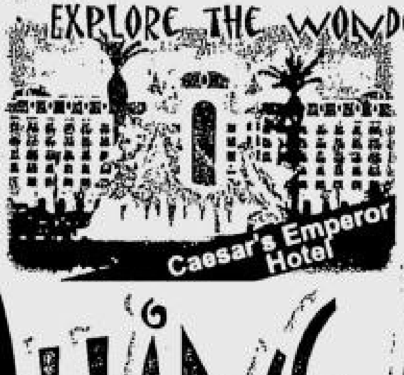

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Name of Participants	Company	Date of Exam
Edward Ildefonso A. Lauz *Maria Soledad D. Tan*	Asia Brewery Inc. Maker of ***Absolute*** and ***Summit***	15 September 2000
Nita Nirmala Lestari	Filipinas Water Bottling Co. Maker of ***Aqua Prima***	15 September 2000
Alfredo P. Aquino, Jr. *Felicisimo R. Lazo*	La Tondeña Distillers, Inc. Maker of ***Viva*** and ***First***	15 September 2000
Eulalio D. Medrano, Jr. *Elro De Los Reyes*	Metro Bottled Water Corp. Maker of ***Wilkins***	15 September 2000
Aurora M. Jalotjot	Oceanic Bottled Water Ent. Maker of ***Metro***	15 September 2000
Melchiades J. Maniego	Ultrafil Water Systems, Inc. Supplier of filtration equipment.	15 September 2000

Members pass the annual audit and have a Certified Plant operator.

The above-mentioned members of the Asia Bottled Water Association have passed the mandatory international certification called Certified Plant Operator conducted by QUASI International of the USA, a certification body appointed by the Asia Bottled Water Association.

ABWA Country Representatives in the Philippines

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1550 Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
Tel: (632) 689 9230 Fax: (632) 634 2487
e-mail: ltdi@smg.sanmiguel.com.ph • website: www.wilkins.com.ph

Filipinas Water Bottling Company (FWBC)
5/F RFM Building, Pioneer Corp.
Sheridan Sts. Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
Tel: (632) 631 8101 Fax: (632) 633 9238
e-mail: fwbcoper@cav.pworld.net.ph

ABWA's Secretariat in Jakarta

Tel: (62-21) 460 0283
Fax: (62-21) 468 23532

ABWA and ICBWA

ABWA is the Asian Bottled Water Association, the trade association representing the bottled water industry in the Asia Pacific whose mission is to assure that safe, clean, standard quality bottled water is produced and marketed to consumers. It will deliver its mission through quality assurance working hand in hand with bottled water manufacturers, distributors and suppliers.

ABWA is a founder member of ICBWA (International Council of Bottled Water Association) and is one of the largest and the fastest growing chapter. The ABWA territory covers the Philippines along with other Central Asia and Middle East countries. ABWA subscribes to the Model Code as the foundation to quality. Member companies are mandated to comply with the code through the annual inspections for all association members of ICBWA. Aside from the inspection, each member's factory must also have a Certified Plant Operator (CPO), a training program and examination done by accredited international parties. The ABWA logo on the members' bottled water label is the consumers' assurance of drinking water that is safe to drink.

ABWA History

ABWA was founded in September 1992, initially named the "Far East Chapter" which was later changed to "Asia Pacific Chapter" and then to the Asia Chapter. With the formation of the new ICBWA taking over the role and position of the IBWA, which is now confined to the United States of America territory only, the Asia Chapter has now become independent and is officially called the Asia Bottled Water Association (ABWA) since May 2000.

In April 2000, ABWA initiated a road show "ABWA Certified Plant Operator General Training Program" providing a technical course for plant operators. Successful participants are certified as plant operators, a mandatory requirement for ABWA affiliation the most recent last held September 2001 in Manila.

ABWA has permanent Secretariat based in Jakarta, Indonesia tasked with overseeing ABWA initiatives. Member companies select their country representatives. Metro Bottled Water Corporation and Filipinas Water Bottling Company represent the Philippines.

Maynilad urged to pump in add'l capital

By Christine A. Gaylican

METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System has urged Maynilad Water Services Inc. to increase its capital to improve its water operations.

As MWSS and Maynilad head for a settlement of their dispute over a tariff recovery mechanism for the latter's foreign exchange losses, MWSS urged the latter to infuse more capital into its operations by November.

MWSS Administrator Jose F. Mabanta said in an interview that Maynilad and its partner Ondeo Philippines, formerly Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux, should infuse additional capital into the company to maintain the viability of the project.

"They have committed to infuse P735 million, but we think this is insufficient to maintain viable operations," said Mabanta.

He believed the Lopez group's water firm has the money for the needed capital infusion since it has not been paying its concession fees for the past six months, Maynilad now owes P1.32 billion in concession fees.

Maynilad project finance director and First Philippine Holdings Inc. vice president for finance Francis Gilles Puno said in an interview Friday that it was still not possible for the company to infuse additional capital immediately since it was still awaiting the approval of its term loans.

Sale . . .

(From page B1)

offering since the state-owned company was already listed. Another possible option is the creation of a new company that will dispose the stake in an initial public offering, he added.

Camacho did not rule out the possibility that the majority owners of the Malampaya project could be interested to buy PNOC-EC's stake. The Malampaya natural gas project is majority owned by Shell Exploration Phils. B.V and by US firm Texaco Corp. that control 45-percent stake each.

"Of course, selling to the other partners is another option," he said.

Proponents of the project need to spend $2 billion to fully develop the Malampaya field, which has an estimated deposit of 3.4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and put up the offshore, high-pressure gas pipeline from Palawan to Tabangao, Batangas.

The Malampaya project is expected to provide 3,000 megawatts of electricity for 20 years starting next year. It will supply gas to the 1,000-megawatt Sta. Rita project of the Lopez group in 2002, the 500-megawatt San Lorenzo plant, also of the Lopezes and the 1,200-megawatt plant Kepco Phils. Corp., a turnkey project with National Power Corp.

Sources said the $200-million valuation used by PNOC-EC for its stake was based on income projections and allowances for interest expenses.

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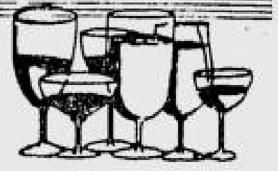
Castigations in Calatagan

COCKTALES



By Victor C. Agustin

THE NEIGHBORLINESS and camaraderie among the old-rich families with weekend houses lining the secluded beach-front properties of Calatagan, Batangas are literally being roiled, with the waves of discord lapping up on the shores of telecom supplier Raymond Moreno.

The chubby, easygoing CEO of Liberty Telecoms is now the object of a lobby campaign by a group of fishermen and its lawyer, Francisco Joaquin III, who are objecting to Moreno's "deepening" the picturesque Pagapas Bay.

Moreno, who does not wish to publicly discuss the squabble, nevertheless thinks that the fishermen's group is merely fronting for his neighbors, Patrick Parsons and his wife, flower farmer/designer Toni Serrano, whose hilltop property holds a commanding view of the entire bay.

According to the pro-Parsons grapevine, the leading Castilaloy families that also have weekend houses in the area are quietly supporting the Parsons as well. Pro-environment Loren Legarda-Leviste has likewise been approached for support by the group.

Personalities aside, the charges are serious enough as far as the exclusive and environment-friendly neighborhood is concerned: that in the process of deepening the lagoon, Moreno's hired help have destroyed the extensive coral reef that have provided fish sanctuary and livelihood among the subsistence fishermen in the area.

The pro-Moreno defense, on the other hand, is that Moreno is merely de-silting the bay from the excavation and road works being undertaken by the Punta Baluarte developer that is converting the neighborhood into what may be called the North Forbes Park subdivision, weekend edition.

(Punta Fuego on the other side is for the nouveau riche, sniffed one Parsons defender. Whereas residents drive up to Punta Fuego in their luxury SUVs, the residents of Punta Baluarte fly in their own helicopters for the weekend.)

According to the pro-Moreno grapevine, the squabble started after Moreno obtained an exclusive foreshore lease over a substantial portion of the bay. This Moreno had to do to protect his Mediterranean-like beachfront from being despoiled by, say, fishpens being erected by outside groups.

In any case, what should have been resolved over beer and barbecue has now been elevated right on the doorsteps of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

Expect a media-feeding frenzy to follow thereafter.

Birthday snub

HOW do you make foreign investors believe that the government is serious and businesslike when a key official dodges off a meeting so he can attend an office birthday party?

This is what happened last week at the Department of Transportation and Communications when Undersecretary Wilfredo Trinidad stood up a meeting with a Spanish-led group proposing to rehabilitate and expand the country's antiquated railroad network.

The irony of it was that the appointed hour, 2 p.m., was chosen by Trinidad himself.

Trinidad, who is in charge of the DOTC's railway planning division, was actually about to see the investors when he excused himself "for a few minutes" as he was being called "upstairs" for what turned out to be a birthday party.

The few minutes stretched to more than two hours. The Spanish group, whose members are themselves no strangers to *siestas* and the *mañana*-habit, could only shake their heads in disbelief as they packed up and went home after they failed to see even the ghost of Trinidad.

Security's new flavor

MAYBE it is the tough times or the out-of-the-box thinking, but Security Bank has quietly opened its 21st floor executive dining room to the paying public.

Called Brasserie 21, the restaurant is a joint venture between the Makati Chef group and former CCP president Armita Rufino, the latter having served on the Cultural Center board along with Security Bank president Rafael Simpao.

Open for lunch and dinner with cocktails/bar being contemplated, Brasserie 21 is actually the first public executive restaurant along the stretch of office-buildings on Ayala Avenue between Buendia and Paseo de Roxas.

The watershed event represents the quiet, geological shift that has been going on for quite some time now in Legaspi and Salcedo villages, where neighborhood cafes and bars have sprung up, despite opposition from the Ayalas, to answer strong market demand.

Heard through the grapevine

SINGAPORE is shopping for a bayside property along Roxas Boulevard for its future embassy.

Just like the Japanese Embassy, the Singaporeans want a property adjacent to or near enough the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Roxas Boulevard was ironically the embassy row, as had been envisioned by the American planners of Manila, until the business center shifted to Makati in the '60s.

With congestion and gridlock now also hobbling Makati, it seems that a reverse migration is underway.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

$210-M loan sought for port dev't

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE GOVERNMENT is seeking some $210 million in fresh funding from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to rehabilitate and redevelop ports in major cities in Mindanao.

The project, called the Southern Philippines Ports Package, is now under review by the National Economic Development Authority, according to documents furnished by Presidential Assistant for Mindanao and the Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco) chair Jesus Dureza.

In a recent press briefing, Dureza said the government was going full-blast with the implementation of major infrastructure projects to make Mindanao an attractive investment site. He said that despite the terror sowed by the Abu Sayyaf terrorists in some parts of the region, efforts were being made to harness its growth potentials.

The ports development project in Mindanao seeks to replicate the Port of Manila in three major cities, Davao, Zamboanga and General Santos.

The package will expand the horizontal facilities, upgrade vertical capabilities through the introduction of high-capacity and dedicated equipment, improve passenger amenities and modernize information technology facilities in the three major ports.

Out of the total project cost, General Santos will have the biggest share at $85.14 million while Davao and Zamboanga will get $65.83 million and $58.82 million, respectively.

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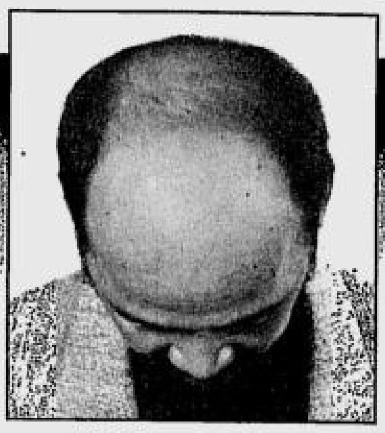
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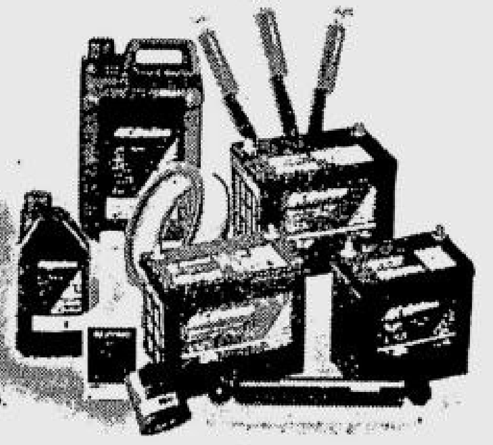

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Honda to venture into assembly of AUVs

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HONDA Cars Philippines Inc. (HCPI), the country's leading passenger car assembler, is gearing up to challenge the country's leading Asian utility vehicle assemblers with its plan to introduce a new model of its best-selling CR-V which will be a wider, longer and more affordable hybrid vehicle.

An industry source said HCPI's decision to compete in the profitable AUV market was spurred by the notable shift in consumer preference from passenger cars to utility vehicles not only in the Philippines but also in Asia over the past few years.

While passenger cars used to have a lion's share of the market in the early 1990s, commercial vehicles have steadily outpaced them in the past few years

The source said that while HCPI continued to dominate the passenger car market for the last seven years with its Civic, City and Accord models, its sales volume has been stagnant compared with the bullish growth of commercial vehicles, specifically the AUVs.

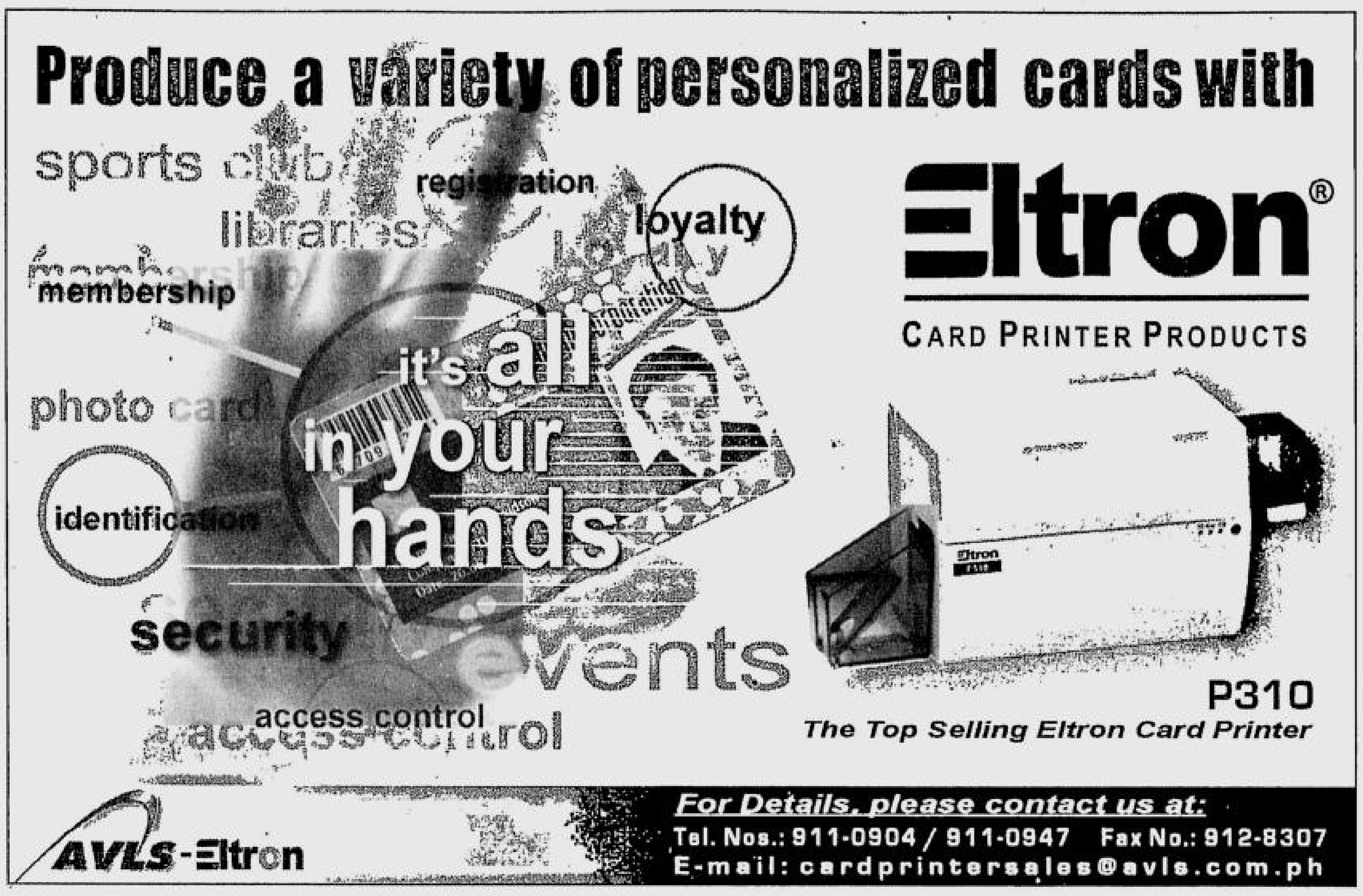
Although HCPI's CR-V—its lone bet in the commercial vehicle segment—is the country's leading sport utility vehicle (SUV), its sales are puny compared with the turnover of the AUVs, which account for more than 30 percent of total industry sales.

The source said HCPI, which assembles the CR-V from completely knocked down kits at its Laguna plant, has already finalized the design of the CR-V's AUV model which would retain most of the unit's current safety features and part of its amenities while making the unit longer and wider to accommodate 10 passengers like other AUVs such as the Toyota Tamaraw Revo, Mitsubishi Adventure, Isuzu Hilander and Francisco Motors' Anfra.

The source said HCPI would sell the CR-V AUV at competitive prices in order to grab market share from the segment's leaders. But it would retain its "no taxi" restrictions imposed on buyers of its models to maintain its brand value.

The AUV has emerged as the Filipinos' favorite model because it provides value for money to buyers with its versatility to ferry passengers (like a van) and heavy loads (like a pickup) while retaining the features and aesthetic values of a sedan.

Although demand for the AUVs was initially fueled by entrepreneurs who used them for deliveries or for taxis (the AUVs were blamed for driving out the jeepneys from roads), the release of flashier models with high-tech gizmos and bright colors have made them a popular choice for private users.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Crossing the bridge to a new Eaga

ONE MINDANAO

Joji Ilagan Bian

IN HER visits this month to the leaders of Malaysia and Brunei, and during her meeting here with the President of Indonesia, President Macapagal-Arroyo was successful in securing these leaders' affirmation of their commitment to revive the East Asean Growth Area (Eaga) initiative that started in 1994.

Good news, indeed. This cooperation agreement involving the four countries was stalled following the Asian crisis and the political troubles here in the Philippines and in Indonesia. Its early years, however, had resulted in many positive cross-border initiatives among the territories comprising the growth area, including Mindanao and Palawan.

Some 250 business and trade delegations from Eaga countries visited Mindanao between 1994 and 1997. Over $300 million in private sector investments from Malaysia alone were infused into Mindanao's agribusiness industry and other sectors. Commercial air and sea transportation linkages were set up between the island-region and the rest of Eaga. There was a strong surge in the movement of goods, people and services.

The growth area will be on the agenda of the Asean Leaders Summit this November. Participating countries are busy formulating recommendations for specific actions to strengthen it, focusing on transport, financial linkages (including investment) and security. Government heads have recognized the strategic importance of Eaga in Asean, particularly in pursuing the Afta, which is why it is being elevated to the national leadership level.

The private sector should prepare itself to take full opportunity of this renewed commitment by the concerned governments, that appear to be moving on the initiative with an unusual and most welcome swiftness.

As Secretary Paul Dominguez, presidential adviser for regional development, pointed out recently: "The role of the government is to open the door and build the bridge. It's up to the private sector to pass that door and cross that bridge."

This time around, we have the benefit of a more comprehensive private sector participation. Previously it was the Eaga-based sub-national business groups, such as the Mindanao Business Council, which actively supported the initiative. Now, however, the national chambers of commerce of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines have agreed to fully participate in the area's renewal, taking their cue from the commitment made by the national leaders, particularly the commitment of the Sultan of Brunei to lead Eaga's revitalization.

There are still many Eaga business opportunities remaining untapped, particularly in infrastructure development, high-value agro-industry, financing services, natural resources-based manufacturing and tourism.

Mindanao already has strong advantages in commodities such as banana and pineapple, and in specific value-added products, like processed tuna. Our climate and land resources compare very favorably with other Asean nations such as China, Vietnam and Thailand. We should be aggressive in drawing in new investment from Eaga to take advantage of this.

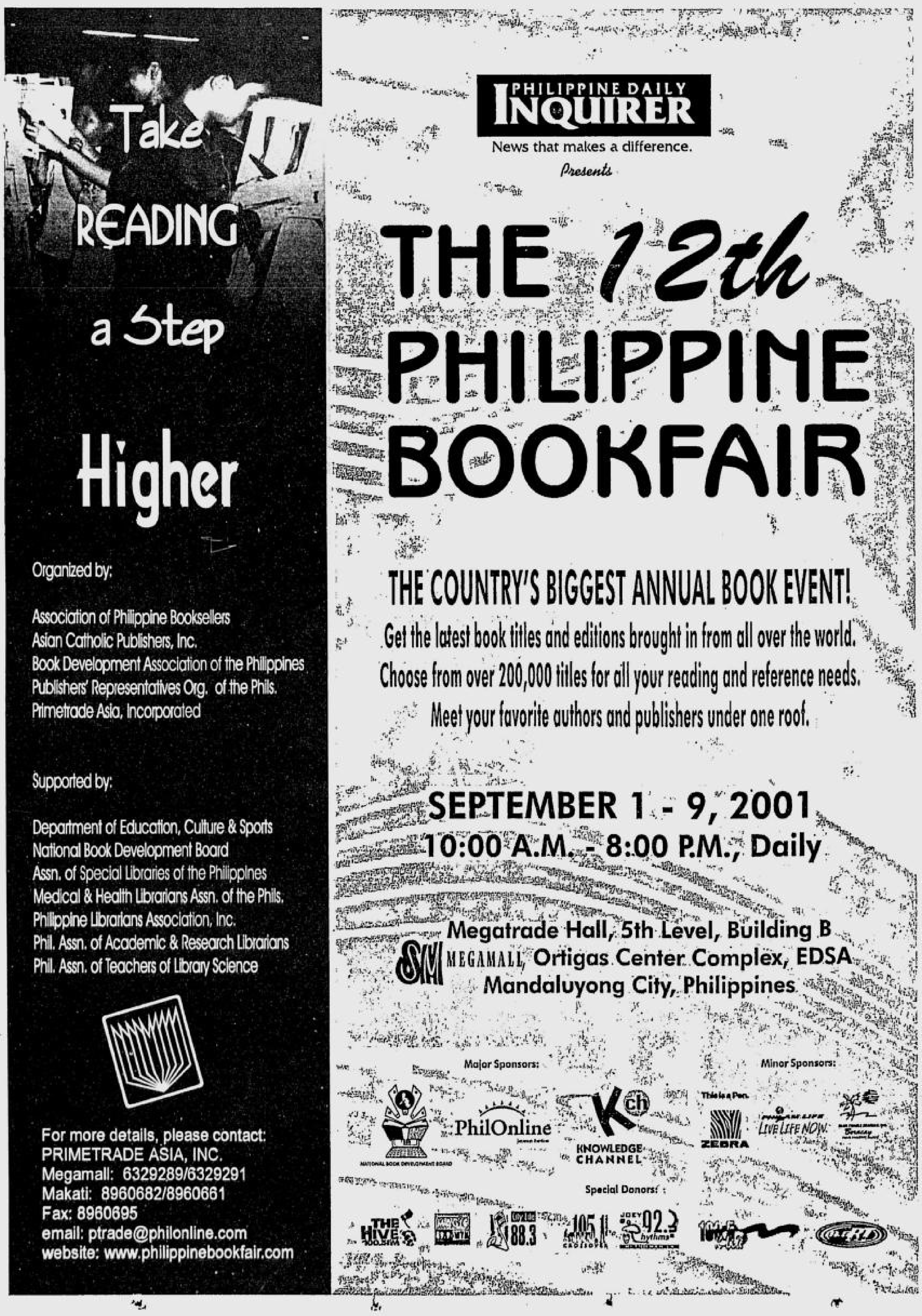
We cannot afford to sit back and wait for events to unfold. Everything advances fast in the global economy, but advantages can diminish rapidly unless fully developed and built upon. We have to be alert as well for opportunities in the newer market niches in which Mindanao can excel, such as IT-based services outsourcing.

The Mindanao Business Conference, which will be held in Cotabato City from Sept. 20 to 22, is the annual meeting that sets the agenda and the pace of the region's economic development. As always, a contingent from Sabah and other Eaga member-territories, including government ministers, will attend the MinBizCon, with one of the conference highlights being a tour of Camp Abubakar as a potential site for economic investment.

Things are beginning to move—literally. Direct flights between Davao City and Kota Kinabalu are to be resumed, and I hear that flights between Zamboanga and Sandakan will follow, as well as that between Davao and Brunei. The new Davao international air terminal is set to open in early 2002, coinciding with the opening up of Eaga. This is a marvelous window of opportunity for the Mindanao travel and tourism industries.

This coming Saturday will see the maiden voyage of the fast ferry service between Zamboanga and Tawau, which will supplement the existing service between Zamboanga and Sandakan in Malaysia. When the gangplank is lowered, a contingent of Mindanao businessmen will walk across it into a new Eaga. I have no doubt that many more such trips will follow.

(Joji Ilagan Bian is the chairperson of the Mindanao Business Council.)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RP is Asia-Pacific's 7th worst IPR violator

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

AT LEAST six out of 10 computers in the Philippines use pirated software, making the country the seventh worst violator of intellectual property rights in Asia-Pacific, according to the Annual Piracy Study of the Business Software Alliance.

The Philippines had a piracy rate last year of 61 percent, ranked behind Vietnam, which had the highest piracy rate of 97 percent, followed by China (94 percent), Indonesia (89 percent), Pakistan (83 percent), Thailand (79 percent) and Malaysia (66 percent).

The rate of piracy in the Philippines, according to the study, translates to a loss of $27.091 million in the software industry's retail revenue, out of $4.08 billion in the entire region.

The study, however, noted that piracy rate in the country has been steadily dropped since 1996 when it hit the peak of 92 percent.

Roland Chan, BSA regional marketing manager for Asia-Pacific, told the INQUIRER in an interview last week that BSA was working with the government and the private sector to bring down the piracy rate here further.

BSA is a non-profit organization based in Washington DC that represents the world's leading software developers.

One of the recent measures taken to reduce piracy was the signing of a memorandum of understanding among the BSA, the Association of Government Internal Auditors and the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Under the MOA, the BSA will help the IIA and the AGIA conduct software audit and licensing procedures to check on the use of pirated software. The private organizations, for their part, would urge their respective members to comply with laws governing the use of legal software.

Chan said the BSA has adopted a three-pronged approach to promote the use of legal software in the Philippines and the rest of the region.

The BSA, for instance, has been working policy makers to convince them to make the use of pirated software a crime. It is also working with enforcement agencies such as the National Bureau of Investigation to implement anti-piracy laws, and with educational institutions to promote awareness of the benefits of using legal software.

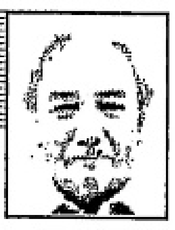
"The greatest threat to the software developers here is the multi-copying of legal software. This means that companies buy a few sets of legal software and copy them indiscriminately across the organization," Chan said.

He said some companies in the Philippines and other countries have the wrong notion that they already own the software once they buy the CD-ROM, thus, entitling them to make multiple copies.

"What they are really paying for is the right to use the CD-ROM," Chan said.

The GSIS tyranny

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES



Honesto C. General

IN THE dog-eat-dog world of insurance, when your biggest client sneezes, you catch pneumonia.

Except the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS). Its biggest client, National Power Corp. (Napocor), has a bad cold and GSIS is untouched by the virus. Napocor, already groaning under its huge debt, wants to cut down its insurance premium on its fixed assets without sacrificing coverage. It has hired foreign and local consultants to redesign its policies. On the new design specifications, competing reinsurers will be asked to quote via Napocor's electronic bidding system. GSIS will still write the policy, but the reinsurers will be chosen by Napocor. This is not uncommon with large insurance buyers.

Napocor proposes that the transparent electronic bidding be conducted under the watchful eyes of representatives from GSIS. But GSIS does not want to be just a spectator. It does not even want Napocor to conduct the bidding, although GSIS does not have any electronic bidding facilities. GSIS wants to run its own bidding, without Napocor taking any part in it at all.

Is this anyway to treat your biggest client?

GSIS has the strict monopoly of insuring the fixed assets of government, national and local. But the law requires GSIS to be competitive with the private sector. This provision has not stopped the GSIS from employing tyrannical tactics on its clients as befits a monopoly. Besides, who in the private sector would want to compete with GSIS when GSIS will get the business anyway by matching, sometimes even without matching, the lowest quote from the market?

A friend of mine was hired by a government agency to look into the fire insurance on its office buildings. My friend found out that the premiums were 10 times market rates. GSIS refused to accept the finding. The agency was willing to pay five times market rates. GSIS refused. The agency continues to pay at 10 times market rates.

But Napocor is an entirely different case. Its current $13 million annual premium is about 20 percent of total premiums in the General Insurance Fund. Also, the Napocor has been a profitable client. Over the past five years, it received $1.6 million in claims and paid $47 million in premiums.

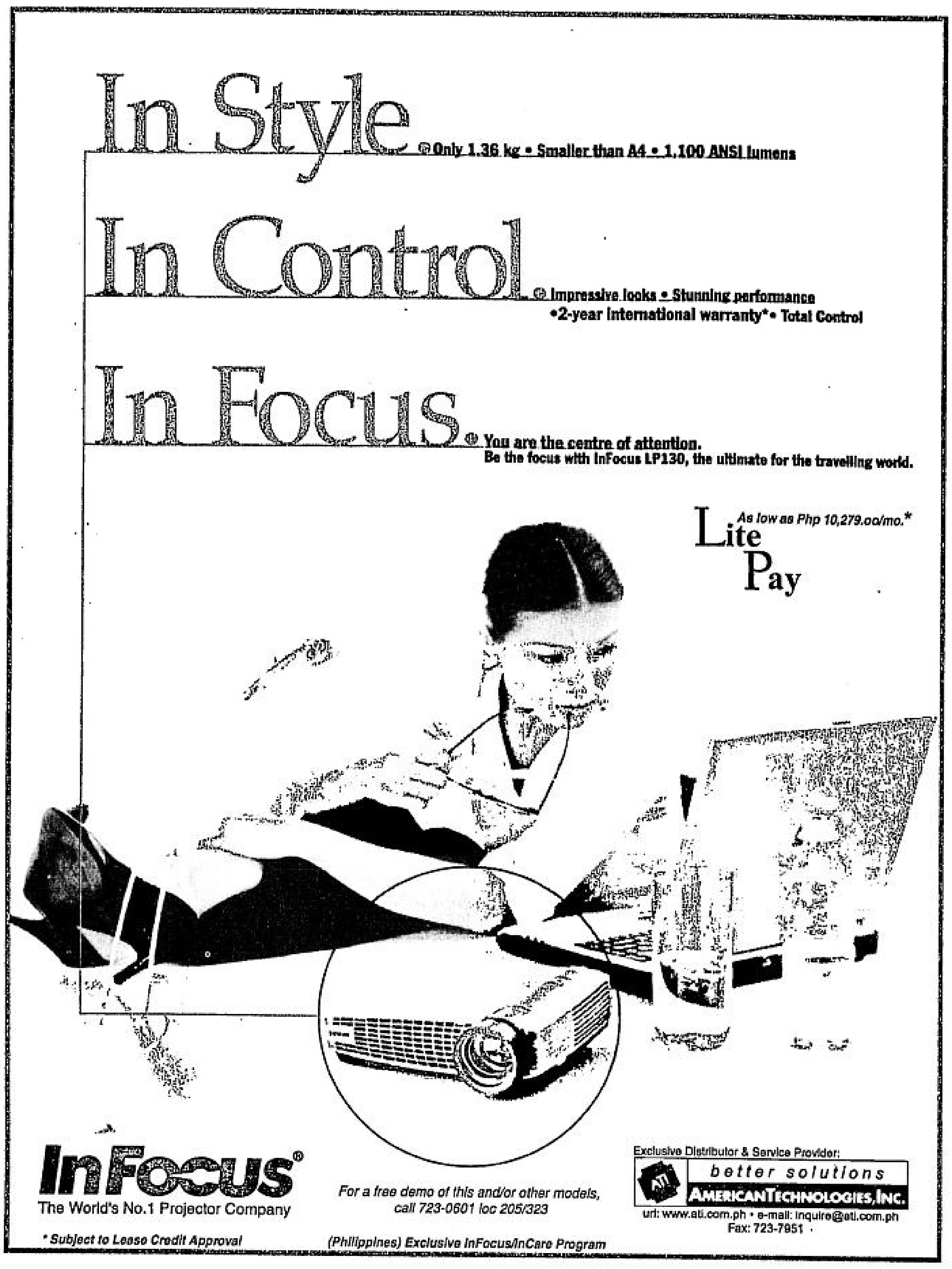
And yet, as Napocor president J.N. Alcordo complains, the servicing by GSIS of its biggest client leaves much to be desired. No GSIS representative comes over to visit even on an irregular basis. There does not seem to be anyone at GSIS once can consult. All GSIS is interested in is to collect the premium.

Be that as it may, in the moment of Napocor's greatest need, which is to negotiate for lower premiums, you would think that GSIS would be on Napocor's side. But, no. GSIS president Wilson Garcia is on the side of reinsurers across the negotiating table from Napocor. It is not hard to conclude that Garcia is protecting certain interests other than Napocor's.

But Alcordo is dead set on his course. And Garcia is as adamant. It looks like an irresistible force (Alcordo) against an immovable object (Garcia). I'm betting on Alcordo. And Garcia will, in the end, come down with pneumonia.

* * *

Memo to all PARP members: The Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP) will hold its annual general meeting on Sept. 30, from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the social hall of the Villamor Golf Club (formerly Nichols Air Base), Pasay City. Special guest will be Social Security System president Corazon de la Paz. See you there.



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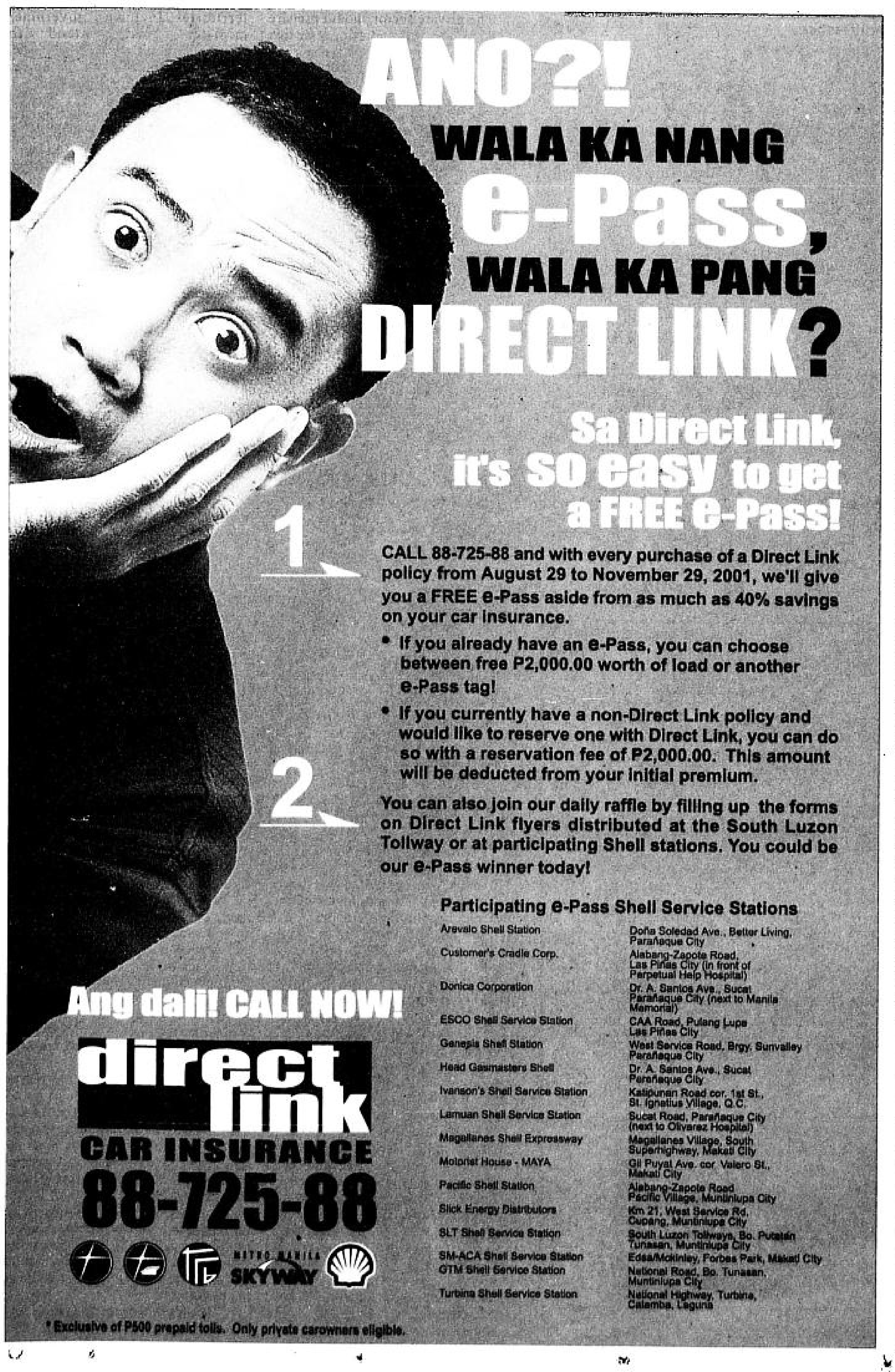

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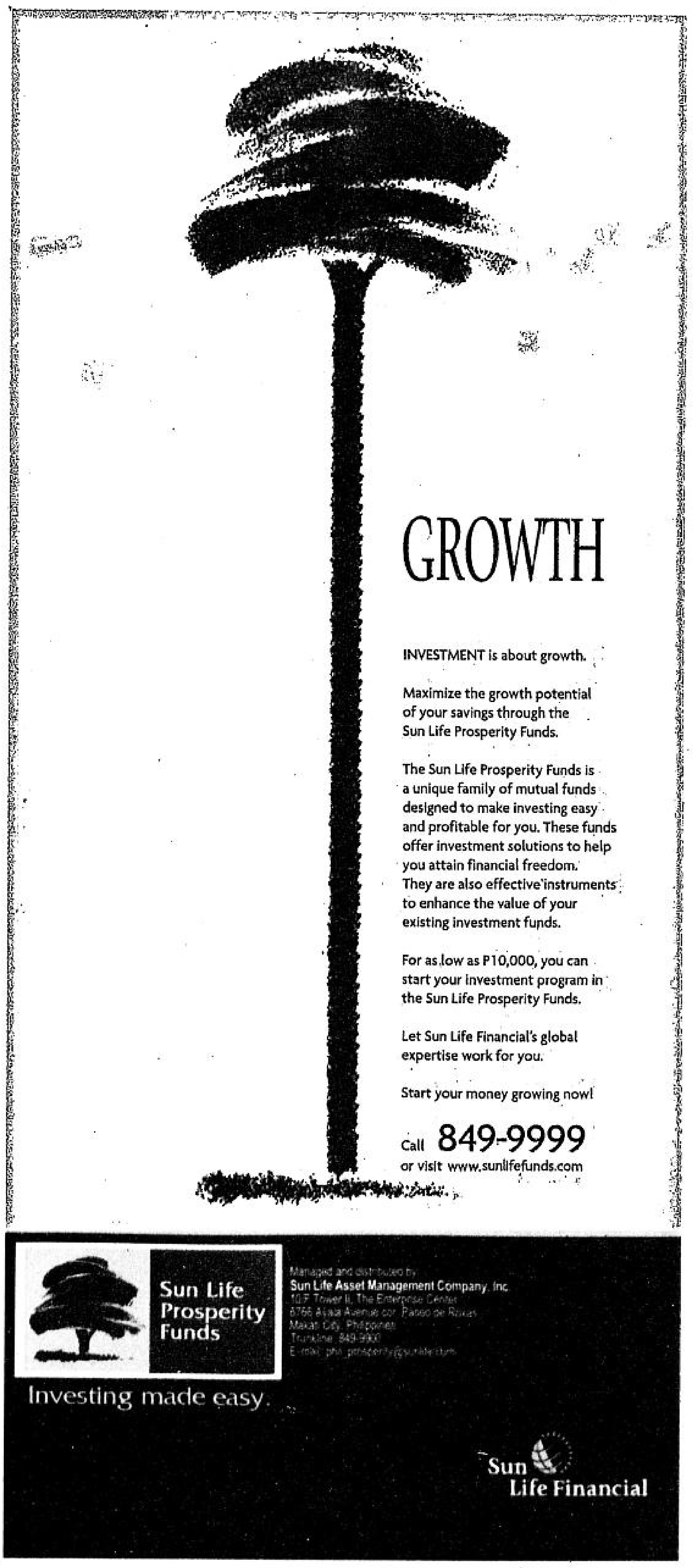

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Sun Life Financial

Stock sentiments still weak

MARKET PLAY

DORIS C. DUMLAO

A TECHNICAL correction is seen lifting oversold stocks this week, but analysts doubt whether the recovery will be strong enough to lift the key composite index above 1,300 points.

Stock analysts believe it remains to be seen whether the stock market has touched bottom, citing a dearth of fresh incentives that may lure more aggressive bargain hunting.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost 1.6 percent week-on-week, closing at 1,265.44 on Friday and breaching the crucial 1,270-point support despite a higher-than-expected growth figure in the second quarter.

Foreign investors dumped shares of telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. over concerns of its refinancing requirements.

"Overall, sentiments remain rather weak as foreign selling pressure continues to weigh down the market. Outlook at this point does not look favorable given the breakdown from the 1,270 critical support," BPI Securities Corp. analyst Spencer Yap said.

"Investors may again opt to wait out the market's latest correction, given the uncertainty as to its bottom. The market is nearing oversold levels, but indicators do show some more room for correction," Yap added.

AB Capital Securities Corp. analyst Jose Vistan said the main index would likely stay within the current trading range of 1,250 to 1,300 points this week as investors were still expected to stay on the sidelines.

"Bargain hunting may come in every now and then. However, the lack of incentives will keep rallies short and insignificant. The market will have to zero in on every piece of economic news, no matter how small. Look into those indicators that act as leading indicators on where the economy will go. These figures include imports, manufacturing and bank lending," Vistan said.

The stock market is anticipating the release of July export and August inflation figures this year.

Online stock firm 2tradeasia.com says an "overhang" on index heavyweight PLDT may be muted by a gradual bargain-hunting into other blue chips like SM Prime Holdings Inc., Manila Electric Co., First Philippine Holdings Inc., Ayala Land Inc., Ayala Corp. and San Miguel Corp.

"Barring any unexpected negative event, this might support a technical recovery back to 1,300," 2tradeasia.com predicts.

It says it believes in the attractiveness of accumulating "fundamentally sound" issues given the market's present level. The general story most players will look for will include improved consumer spending in the fourth quarter and a clearer economic and political picture toward 2002.

"Within the week, another sideways trading session is expected to occur within 1,250 to 1,300. More than improved momentum indicators, participants need to be convinced that possible selloffs from foreign fund managers have abated and that political leaders can concentrate more in forwarding significant economic measures," it says.

"Meanwhile, attention might shift to second- and third-liners that have been wallowing at lows despite indications of continued operational stability. With some of the tensions tied to first-half performance being shaken off, the current lull in trades may be viewed as positioning windows for probable recoveries," it adds.

With the latest GDP report now out of the way, Vistan says there is no single catalyst likely to encourage investors to be more aggressive in this market.

"There is no sense of urgency to commit in the current, uncertain environment. We know that the major economies are in a bleak period and it will take a long while and a lot of work before things will turn around," he says.

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SELLING:

Alabang A/B	1.7M/1.9M
Baguio Country Club	720,000
Camp John Hay Golf	350,000
Canlubang Golf	750,000
Capitol Hills	135,000
Celebrity	205,000
Club Filipino	250,000
CC at Tagaytay Highland	400,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	400/500/600
Fontana A.B.C.D	Please call
Forest Hills "A"/B/C	240/250/440
Manila Golf (Indv.)/Corp	12.900M/16M
Manila Polo	3,200,000
Manila Southwoods "A" / B	750/800,000
Makati Sports "A"/B	350,000/350,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"/C	300,000/320,000
Orchard "A"/B/C	250/350/400
Riviera "A"/B/C	200/Please call
Rockwell Club	Please call
Sta. Elena A/B	1.8M/2.1M
Sherwood	175,000
Subic Yacth (Indv.)	240/400
Tagaytay Highland Club/Golf	400/890
Tagaytay Midlands	790,000
Valle Verde CC / Corp	190/350
Valley Golf	250,000
Wack Wack	7,870,000

BUYING:

Alabang A/B	Please call
Baguio Country Club	700,000
Camp John Hay Golf	310,000
Capitol Hills	130,000
Celebrity	200,000
CC at Tagaytay Highland	400,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	350/Please call
Evercrest	90,000
Forest Hill "A"/B/C	Please call
Manila Golf (Indv.)/Corp.	Please call
Manila Polo	Please call
Manila Southwoods "A"/B	750/800,000
Makati Sports "A"/B	300,000/300,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"/C	Please call
Manila Yacht	Please call
Orchard "A"/B/C	240/Please call
Philippine Columbian	85,000
Puerto Azul	140,000
Quezon City Sports	225,000
Riviera "A"/B/C	150/Please call
Royale Tagaytay	90,000
Sta. Elena A/B	1.8M/1.9M
Subic Yacth (Indv.)	Please call/400
Tagaytay Highland Club/Golf	400/850
Tagaytay Midlands	770,000
Valle Verde CC / Corp	180,000
Valley Golf	250,000
Wack Wack	Please call

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,650,000	1,800,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	2,000,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	800,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	125,000
Camp John Hay	Please Call	400,000
Canlubang	-	800,000
Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	130,000	140,000
Cebu Country Club	-	2,000,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	Please Call
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	110,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	230,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	350,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	-	350,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	350,000	450,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	16,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	Please Call	14,000,000
Manila Polo	-	3,300,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	700,000	750,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	850,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	110,000	150,000
Mimosa Golf & Country Club (Corporate)	-	350,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	30,000
Mt. Malarayat	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	230,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	450,000
Philippine Columbian	-	85,000
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	170,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	250,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Royale Tagaytay "A/B/C"	Please Call	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	200,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,725,000	1,900,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,200,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	400,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	240,000
Tagaytay Country Club	-	420,000
Tagaytay Highlands	-	950,000
Tagaytay Midlands	Please Call	830,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	185,000	200,000
Valley Golf	250,000	275,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	7,500,000	8,200,000

PLAYING RIGHTS
(Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	40,000	Mimosa Golf	20,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	15,000
Canlubang	70,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	30,000	Sta. Elena	65,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	30,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	65,000
Manila Southwoods	40,000	Tagaytay Mid.	40,000
Makati Sports "A"	35,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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PAL belittles air deal

PHILIPPINE Airlines Inc. said last week that the country could have gotten a more lucrative open skies agreement had it negotiated with Japan instead of Singapore.

"Singapore is a very small country, so it has nothing to lose. It's just tapping somebody else's market. It doesn't bring in that many tourists," PAL president and chief operating officer Avelino Zapanta said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed on Aug. 24 an amended air rights agreement with Singapore during her state visit there.

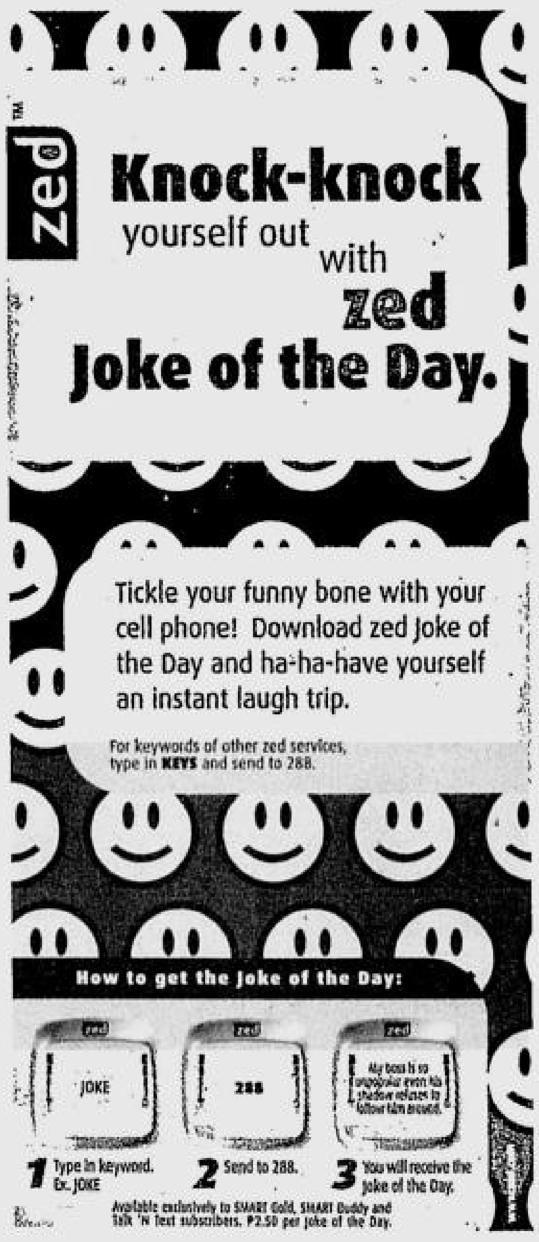
The old air service agreement allowed Singapore to fly 6,545 passengers in and out of Manila per week.

With the new agreement, this number has increased to 8,700 passengers.

The city state wanted last year to have an unlimited number of flights to the country, but the Philippine government was not willing to comply with that because Singapore hardly filled up its allowed weekly capacity.

Singapore later dropped its demand for unlimited flights, but it wanted to increase its weekly seat capacity.

According to Civil Aeronautics Board deputy executive director Carmelo Arcilla, the Philippines decided to finally grant Singapore's request because the latter was already doing "well enough" in terms of filling up its weekly allotted seats.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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, Aug. 31, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	62.5	62.5	61.5	61.5	110,900
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	30.5	30.5	30	30	60,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	201	204	200	204	73,560
Philippine National Bank	53	53.5	53	53.5	135,800
Security Bank Corp.	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	200
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.25	22.25	22.25	22.25	500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	50,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	243	243	243	243	460
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1215	1225	1210	1225	1,310
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33	33	33	33	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	250,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	655	650	650	4,300
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.033	0.034	0.032	0.034	8,800,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.51	0.49	0.51	410,000
Piltel	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	480	487.5	475	485	398,870
Ivantage Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	170,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.031	49,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	31.5	31.5	31	31.5	28,800
Manila Electric Co. B	43.5	45	43.5	44.5	704,100
Petron Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.76	3,153,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	650,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.88	1.9	1.88	1.9	1,225,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.28	0.32	0.28	0.32	1,840,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	30,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	511,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	50,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	39,000
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	15	15	15	15	15,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	25.5	26	25.5	26	8,400
RFM Corp.	2.14	2.22	2.14	2.22	722,000
San Miguel Corp. A	40.5	40.5	40	40.5	54,700
San Miguel Corp. B	55	55.5	55	55.5	98,100
Universal Robina Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.5	3,618,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	50,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	187,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11.25	11	11.25	1,400
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.83	0.84	1,590,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	28,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.16	0.165	0.16	0.165	50,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.22	0.22	500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.58	1.6	780,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	1,120,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	29	29	29	29	49,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.14	1,600,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,100,000
Ipeople Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	15,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	180,000
Medco Holdings	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	400,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.68	500,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	4,980,000
Music Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.18	1.18	140,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5	5	5	5	2,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.09	0.12	0.09	0.12	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	310,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	5,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	300,000
Pryce Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13	13	13	13	2,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	740,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	30,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	16.25	30	16.25	30	5,100
Manila Jockey Club	19	19.25	19	19.25	15,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	120,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	33	33.5	33	33.5	54,400
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	520	520	515	515	320
Globe Tel. A-Warrants	470	470	465	465	126,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	680	680	680	680	250
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	540,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	18,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	40,200,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.65	4.7	4.65	4.7	5,046,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3	3	3	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	2,160,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.33	0.36	4,890,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	440,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	5,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.82	1.86	1.82	1.86	101,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.21	730,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	1,850,000
Primex Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6	5.9	6	4,714,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.055	0.07	0.055	0.07	1,400,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.039	0.04	0.038	0.038	66,700,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.17	2,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	48,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	139,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	11,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	430,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	17,000,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	200,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	140,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	483,030	32,497,375.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	174,910,747	385,691,345.33
PRO	21,396,000	54,777,380.00
Mining	267,330,000	4,043,550.00
OIL	20,340,000	109,200.00
GRAND TOTALS:	484,474,777	477,161,850.33

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	525.91	DOWN 2.73
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,790.18	UP 2.90
PRO	486.30	UP 2.93
Mining	1,204.01	DOWN 8.86
OIL	1.45	DOWN 0.05
All Shares Index	775.39	UP 0.61
Composite	1,265.44	UP 2.53

NO. OF ADVANCES: 33; NO. OF DECLINES: 38; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 43; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 114; NO. OF TRADES: 1,769

Small investors get chance to buy T-bills

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands has brought down the minimum investment requirement for its online fixed income trading instrument from P500,000 to P100,000 to encourage small- and medium-scale investors to put in their money.

BPI Securities Corp. chair Senen Matoto said in an interview that the trading of fixed income securities, such as low-risk government treasury bills, was previously restricted to high net-worth individuals and institutions, resulting in a shallow market for fixed income securities.

With small and medium investors looking for alternative investment instruments, Matoto said the time was right to offer an online facility such as BPItrade.com that can accommodate their orders, since stock trading is in the doldrums.

BPITrade.com is the online trading service of BPI Securities and the first to offer fixed income trading through the Internet at a low commission rate of 0.25 percent.

Clients can also access research, e-mail and text message alerts as well as off-hours order trading. Clients can also access their online confirmation advice and statement of accounts.

"We believe that this window into small volume placements in fixed income securities gives clients an alternative home for their investible funds in the face of the general tone of the local stock market," Matoto said.

BPITrade also allows investors to cash in their fixed-income placements at any time, instead of the 90 days, six months or one year required with the treasury bill placements.

"Investors can now trade for as short as a week, giving them better rates than the savings account. For example, a 30-day placement in government securities today will yield an interest rate of only 9 percent compared with about 7.5 percent for time deposits," Matoto said.

He expected that interest rates on government securities would be on the rise because of the possibility that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would again increase reserve requirements of the banks.

This means that there will be less money floating in the system, thus, pushing interest rates up.

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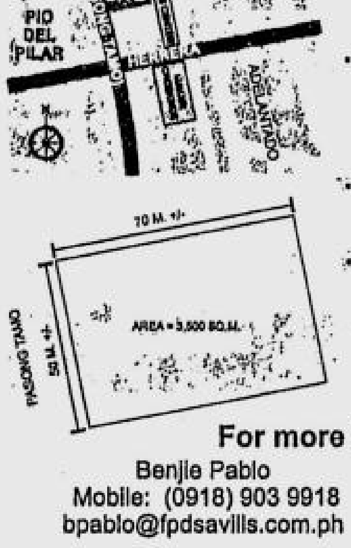

- The property is a 3,500 sq.m. rectangular shaped lot
- Located within the vicinity of mid-rise office and residential developments southwest of the Makati CBD
- Enclosed with a steel fence without any improvements or structure standing on the site
- PLDT, Smart Communications, public mailing system and other privately owned companies cater to the communications requirements of business and residential developments in the area
- Situated along Chino Roces Avenue, property is zoned for commercial use
- Utilities readily available to the site include overhead power, water, telephone and public sewer.

For more information, please contact

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		ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
1.	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	Please call	-
2.	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	Please call	-
3.	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000.00	-
4.	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	800,000.00	-
5.	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB "A"	Please call	-
6.	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB "C"	-	Please call
7.	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	-	Please call
8.	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	-	350,000.00
9.	EAGLERIDGE GOLD CLUB "B"	550,000.00	-
10.	FOREST HILLS "A"	250,000.00	-
11.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	350,000.00	300,000.00
12.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	400,000.00	350,000.00
13.	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,200,000.00	3,000,000.00
14.	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	13,250,000.00	-
15.	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Corporate)	16,000,000.00	-
16.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	-	700,000.00
17.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	850,000.00	-
18.	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	-	30,000.00
19.	MT. MALARAYAT "B"	450,000.00	-
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Agri foolishness

ON THE MONEY
John Mangun

PLEASE let me say it just once. I told you so.

The 3.3-percent first-half economic growth caught the "experts," both foreign and local, by surprise. As quoted from Friday's INQUIRER, "A Singapore investment bank that tracks the Philippine economy described the growth as astounding." The research head at foreign stockbroker Vickers Ballas Securities Philippines said it was because of manufacturing. Except counterpart GK Goh Securities in Singapore said, "The numbers that we've seen also don't suggest that manufacturing has picked up." Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said it was because of the government's fiscal discipline. The President herself said it was a "sure sign" of an economic turnaround and a return of business confidence. Wrong, wrong, wrong.

It is not astounding if you know that 70 percent of this economy is based on agriculture and that sector was up 3 percent. It is not a result of the government's fiscal policy; it is in spite of the government's poor agricultural spending programs. It is not from business confidence but a sure sign of good weather over the last quarter.

Agriculture was what saved our economy in 1997, not President Ramos' government policies. It is what killed us in late 1998 as second-quarter rice production dropped 40 percent and corn was down 65 percent, not President Estrada's election. It is what is keeping us alive amid a global slowdown in 2001, not the aftermath of Edsa II.

However, if our government, and we as a people, do not change our thinking and practices, we will destroy the agricultural "goose" that is laying our economic "golden egg."

I was at Rustan's Shopwise supermarket in Makati last week. Even if the store wasn't a few blocks from my house, I would go there anyway just for the valet parking. My wife is buying "*kakang gata,*" or coconut cream. I am looking at the different brands and notice one that is P1 to P2 cheaper than the others are. The brand is called ''Filtaste" and carries a picture of a *salakot* as sort of a logo. I pick up the can and turn it around only to read, ''PRODUCT OF THAILAND."

Well, there goes another Filipino farmer driven out of business and into the big city to become one of our famous "urban poor." Look, I have no objection to or quarrel with the local company that is importing this product to sell here. That is why I am a full-blown open door capitalist (with due respects to Teddy Casiño of Business World) and a free marketer. But this has got to stop. Where is one "front-page" politician encouraging a "Buy Filipino First" campaign? Where is a law that requires local products to bear a "Proudly Filipino Made" label so that consumers can help the economy by avoiding imported products? Where are the economic incentives that would make locally produced products as cheap as those from abroad? This is absolute foolishness.

I received a very nice letter from Rep. Alfredo Marañon from the 2nd District of Negros Occidental. He is the chair of the House committee on agriculture. He, too, was requesting my agri-GDP chart and the data from Arsi Balisacan and Bruce Tolentino. I was happy to provide the congressman and his committee with my information. But then I got to thinking about it. Aren't we supposed to have a functioning Department of Agriculture to provide this kind of information to Congress? Isn't Neda (National Economic Development Authority), "the country's premier social and economic development planning and policy coordinating body," supposed to know everything about our economy? An administration spokesperson can say, "The Philippines is the only country in the region, which posted higher growth in the second quarter compared with the first quarter." The problem is that the policymakers may have no idea why this is true. Doesn't that make it rather difficult to do any proper "economic development planning?" And to make any economic comparisons with Taiwan and Singapore, which respectively have 10 percent and zero percent of their labor force in agriculture, is foolish.

After the economic numbers were released on Thursday came all the "expert" analysis on Friday. Why is this or that sector doing so badly if the economy is growing as the government says it is? Again, if they would realize that agriculture is the economic foundation and everything else, except exports, moves from agriculture, the picture is very clear. Construction spending lags agricultural growth by at least two quarters. Good agriculture today means better construction in six months. Because of the lag, you can have increases in construction in a quarter where agriculture growth even falls. Transportation sector growth is only one quarter delayed. Personal consumer spending is at least one quarter behind and shows some interesting characteristics. A slight fall in agriculture can cause a huge drop in spending. A slight growth in agriculture can cause a massive spate of spending. Moreover, at the bottoms or tops of agriculture growth, spending tends to go flat as if the consumers were saving up for bad times or getting ready to make big purchases when things get better.

You asked me for solutions and thought I was being silly when I said the President ought to get out to the province with the farmers. What perception do we give to the young people when a president calls a returning Hong Kong maid a "Hero of the Republic?" Or when a former senator says someone is so dumb that he ought to be in the mountains growing "*camote*"? The first answer is to raise awareness of the problem.

Other solutions? CARP ought to stand for the Chaotic Agrarian Reform Program. The National Food Authority buys rice at prices that do little to help the farmer. Consumers buy little of the NFA subsidized rice. Much better to have spent the billions of pesos on farm related infrastructure or help farmers' cooperatives break milling/distribution monopolies. This is all foolishness.

(John Mangun can be reached at 636-1121 to 35, Fax No. 634-2349 or e-mail at johnmangun@yahoo.com.)

$10-B INSURANCE POLICY

'Hidden agenda' in NPC row

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE HEAD of the Government Service Insurance System has suggested that the National Power Corp. may have a hidden agenda in insisting that it have a hand in choosing its reinsurance brokers.

"There's more to this than meets the eye," GSIS president Winston Garcia told INQUIRER.

He disclosed that Napocor president Jesus Alcordo asked him to deal with a "private consultant" over a scheduled auction of Napocor's $10-billion insurance policy.

"Something is wrong. He wants me to deal with this private consultant. Come on, I am not a person who will make backroom deals on this thing," Garcia said.

He also disclosed that in his first meeting with Alcordo, the Napocor chief wanted to disqualify some reinsurance brokers and put some in.

"I would remind Jess Alcordo when we assumed office, it was on a higher moral plane," Garcia said.

He did not provide details.

On Friday, Alcordo reiterated that Napocor would itself bid out a contract insuring its $10 billion worth of assets.

"What we are suggesting is that we should participate in the process of getting the best rates and the best broker for our insurance. After all, we are the client. We pay for the premiums," Alcordo had said.

Reacting to this statement, Garcia said, "We (GSIS and Napocor) can negotiate on insurance rates, but (Napocor) should not dictate on us who our reinsurers should be."

The GSIS chief also scored Alcordo for saying that the bidding process was not transparent.

"If it is not transparent, send me to jail," Garcia challenged Alcordo.

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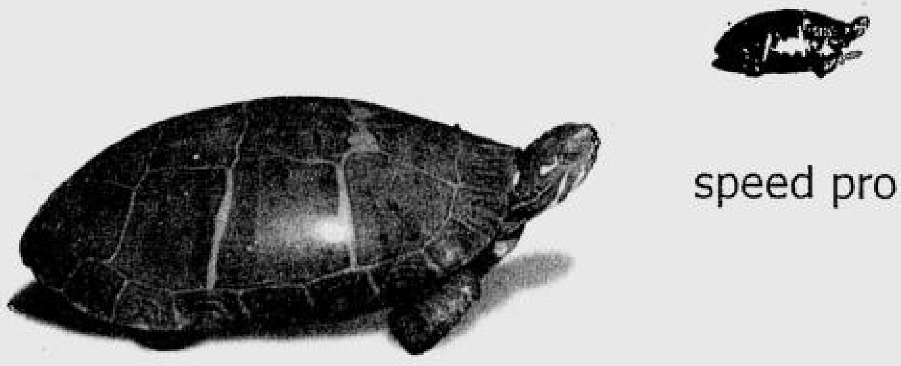

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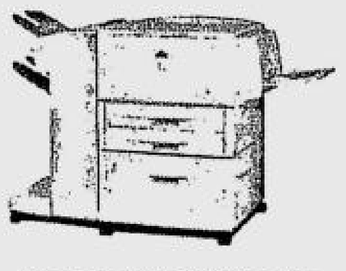

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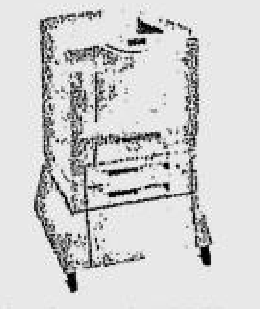

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SEC finalizes own version of investment company bill

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has finalized its own version of the proposed Revised Investment Company Act, designed to promote the development of the mutual fund industry.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista, in separate letters dated Aug. 20, sought the assistance of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Deputy Executive Secretary Jose Tale in the SEC's efforts to substitute House Bill No. 399 authored by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda with the commission's version of the proposed investment company law.

Bautista also sought the help of Camacho and Tale in convincing the President to certify and endorse the SEC's version of the bill as a priority administrative measure.

The commission's version was the result of nearly a year's study and of cooperative work between the SEC and the Investment Company Association of the Philippines. It was based on the original bill also filed by Salceda in the last Congress.

"It basically reflects the best practices of the mutual funds industry in the US, Canada, Hong Kong and other countries where mutual funds have flourished. Also, we must mention that our working draft was the old HB No. 12094, likewise authored by Representative Salceda and filed during the last Congress," Bautista said.

In a letter to Camacho, Icap president Vincent Lazatin noted that the SEC proposal not only gave adequate protection to the investing public through proper disclosures but also removed many of the stumbling blocks to the creation and management of mutual funds.

SEC documents showed that the Philippine mutual fund industry was the least developed in the Asian region as its net assets amounted only to $138 million compared with the $1.19 billion of Indonesia's mutual fund industry, the second least developed.

Napocor to cut losses to ₱5B

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

NATIONAL Power Corp. aims to reduce its net loss for the year to about P5 billion from the projected P16 billion, Napocor president Jesus N. Alcordo said.

"If we can achieve what we did in the first half, we expect our losses to be around P5 billion at the end of the year," Alcordo said in a briefing last week.

Alcordo said the state firm sustained a net loss of only P1.79 billion in the first half of 2001.

"Sales for that period was almost 7 percent higher than projected. Our business is very volume-sensitive," he explained.

In a news statement last month, Energy Secretary Vicente S. Perez announced that Napocor's return on rate base jumped to 4.99 percent from January to May compared with the year-ago figure of 1.58 percent.

The RORB is a measure of the company's profitability.

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James Amos, Chairman, International Franchise Assn.

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Economic Prospects of Asia Pacific Economies
Dr. Bernardo Villegas, Dean, School of Economics at UA&P

Franchising in Europe
Chantal Zimmer, European Franchise Federation

How to Expand Your Franchise Network
Donald Boroian, Chairman, Francorp International

SEPTEMBER 14, 2001 (Friday)
Makati Shangri-la Hotel

Franchising as a Tool for Economic Development
Leonard Swartz, Arthur Andersen
Vicente Paterno, Chairman, 7-Eleven

Voices of Experience from the "Masters of Franchising"
Bill McGowan, Chairman, Fastway Global

Global Trends and Innovations and the Growth of Franchising in the US
James Amos, Chairman, IFA

The Success Story of Jollibee
Claro Cerleza, VP, Jollibee

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David Frantz, Overseas Private Investment Corp.

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Arbitration as a Solution to Settle Disputes
Louise Barrington, Chair, ICC's Working Party on Small Claims Arbitration
Legal Aspects in Franchising (Unidroit Law)
Souichirou Kozuka, Professor at Sophia University
Brian Smart, Director, British Franchise Association

Track 3: MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT
Supporting Your Franchisees
William Callagan, Training Specialist, Tricon, Inc.
How to Succeed in Franchising in Asia
Joseph Lau, Managing Director, McDonald's
Lim Wee Kee, VP, Informatics
Revitalizing Your Brand
Emily Abrera, Chairman, McCann Erickson
Reengineering Your Franchise Network
Ichiro Fujita, President, Idealink Japan
Elements of Successful Franchising
Fred de Luca and Peter Slomianyj, Subway

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Don Boroian, Chairman, Francorp International

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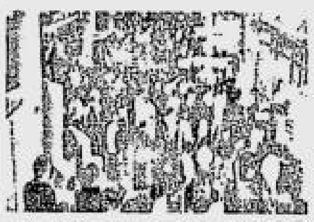

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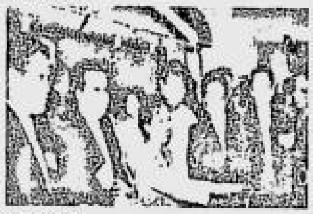

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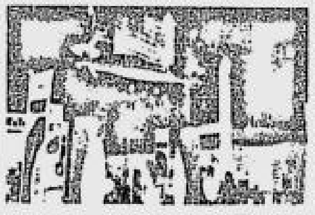

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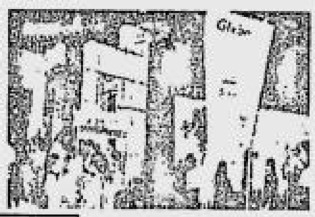

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Pinoys in tight race in outsourcing business

BY SHEILA S. PESAYCO

(First of a series)

IT WAS 2 p.m. of a weekday, and the ground floor of SPI Building in Parañaque City was bustling with youthful energy. Employees, many of them just fresh out of college, chatter away while waiting for the second shift at SPI Technologies Inc.

SPECIAL REPORT

The scene will be repeated at around 10 p.m., when the third and last shift for the day starts and ends at 6 a.m. The fast growing IT outsourcing company cannot simply afford to see the sun set.

For some Philippine firms, this is more than just a metaphor.

Technology has made them realize their client multinational companies now "follow the sun" in their global operations. Wherever the sun shines, MNCs want to be open for business.

The global strategy and the scarcity of skilled labor in the United States and Western Europe have forced MNCs to "outsource" part of their operations to companies in other parts of the world that can deliver round-the-clock, uninterrupted service. Outsourcing also allows a global company to focus on its core competency and cut on overhead costs.

Pundits have painted the outsourcing business as the New Economy version of a sweatshop. The Old Economy was riddled with scenes of Asians at assembly lines in factories without any ventilation, getting less than a dollar a day for performing no-brainer tasks.

Nowadays, "cybergeeks" in their early 20s populate air-conditioned rooms, typing at a feverish pace of 10,000 computer keystrokes an hour to work for rice, pay rent and reload their prepaid cellular phones. Their mothers were "factory workers;" they are "knowledge workers."

Yet this kind of "knowledge work" has turned countries like India into a "Back Office of the Global Economy"—a global industry estimated to grow to $166 billion by next year from just $32 billion in 1993, according to the Outsourcing Institute of the United States. The market is expected to further explode as the slowdown in the US economy forces more MNCs to cut on IT spending and outsource software and hardware services.

'Cheap but good'

The biggest slice of the pie now goes to India, which has propelled its economy by cornering up to 90 percent of the outsourcing business from North America. Its computer software exports alone grew by 40 to 50 percent every year during the 1990s.

"Cheap but good" is how most Indian firms market their services. Aside from being the world's biggest supplier of "brain ware," Indians have also been quick to exploit opportunities in the New Economy.

Every year, the world's second most populous country has more than 100,000 computer science graduates to supply to the world. It also has the second highest number of ISO-9000-certified software companies globally.

For every software expert the Philippines produces, India has about 10 who are willing to accept a slightly cheaper rate. An Indian IT professional is also willing to perform the task of his American counterpart at 10 to 20 percent of the pay. This is why nearly 40 percent of software programmers in US companies are Indians, according to industry estimates. Add to that the number of Indians in the top or middle management of the biggest MNCs based in the United States.

Danilo Reyes, general manager of Jardine Salmat and a director of call center Contact World, a joint venture of ePLDT and Salmat, says Indian outsourcing firms are also "very aggressive and organized" in promoting the industry.

"When you go to international conferences, they give out investment guidebooks already containing an index of all the Indian call centers and companies for MNCs," Reyes says.

The Indian outsourcing industry maintains a website—www.outsource2india.com—a matchmaking venue for companies looking to outsource their operations, and Indian vendors or service providers.

Fully backing up the private sector in the initiative is the Indian government, which has laid down a 108-point Action Plan to promote IT in the country. Beating the Philippines to the draw, the Indian government has set up a separate Ministry of Information Technology to expedite swift approval and implementation of IT projects and streamline the regulatory process.

Software technology parks have also been created, offering world-class infrastructure and various tax incentives to encourage foreign investment up to 100 percent and promote software development in India.

All these combined to boost the Indian market, ranking it third in Asia, after Japan and China, in terms of investment potential for the next 10 years, according to a recent study of the Japan Export-Import Bank.

Playing catch-up

Once again, the Philippines finds itself playing catch-up with India in a race that's now also being fought out among Ireland, Mexico, Costa Rica, and—a looming heavyweight—China.

If the recent decision at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC, is any indication, the Philippines may be in for a fierce battle. Until now, the Filipino community in Washington still talks about the multilateral lending body's decision early this year to outsource its accounting operations and fire several of its Filipino auditors in a bid to cut costs. When made to choose where to outsource—in India, Ireland or the Philippines—the World Bank picked India, where there are millions of accountants available compared with the thousands in the Philippines.

Indeed, nowhere is "cheaper by the dozen" a most crucial factor than in the outsourcing business. Instead of matching India by the numbers, however, Philippine companies realize they must compete without having to position themselves as "cheap but good." After all, they said quality, more than quantity, should be their cutting edge.

Shared services

Joe Berardino, chief executive of the $10-billion Arthur Andersen, said "extraordinary opportunities" in the emerging global economy should "favor companies and countries that speak the two universal languages of business: accounting and English."

As the third largest English-speaking nation in the world, the Philippines is "well-positioned to grow and thrive in the global economy," he said in a speech in Manila in June.

He says Arthur Andersen frequently turns to its local partner, SGV & Co., whenever it needs highly skilled professionals to assist its audit teams in the United States and Europe. "And we increasingly are calling Filipinos to help us meet growing demand for specialists in Asia, as well."

Virginia Obcena, managing director for outsourcing at Arthur Andersen in Manila, heads a staff of more than 200 Filipinos who service the needs of around 450 clients. Local and multinational companies go to Obcena's group to handle their books, accounting processes, payroll and financial transactions, among other things. The SGV unit is now among the biggest at the management and auditing firm.

Among the group's local clients for outsourcing is the National Telecommunications Commission. Unknown to many, SGV-Arthur Andersen is the recognized accounting authority of all ship owners in the country. No cargo vessel leaves Philippine shores without going through SGV.

"Whenever cargo vessels are offshore, their Philippine-based principals will course their billings to us and we bill the international carriers for them," Obcena explains.

While SGV has built a reputation in the auditing field, she says the aim is now to promote the company and the country as a "regional center for shared (or centralized) services." This means regional headquarters of MNCs may still be in Hong Kong and Singapore, but its regional accounting department may be in the Philippines.

To date, more than 15 MNCs have done just that. Among them is Procter & Gamble, which has centralized in Makati City its accounting services for its Asia-Pacific operations. An Indian, who reportedly didn't want to put all of the MNCs' eggs in one basket just in case the war with Pakistan heats up, heads its regional operations. Increasingly, Procter & Gamble is expanding its Makati operations, which will soon include its regional payroll.

Another is oil company Caltex, which has moved its global headquarters to Singapore but has also located its accounting and human resources department in Ortigas, Pasig City, handling five countries in the region. US-based Barnes and Noble has also set up an administrative office in Eastwood City in Libis, Pasig City. *(To be continued)*

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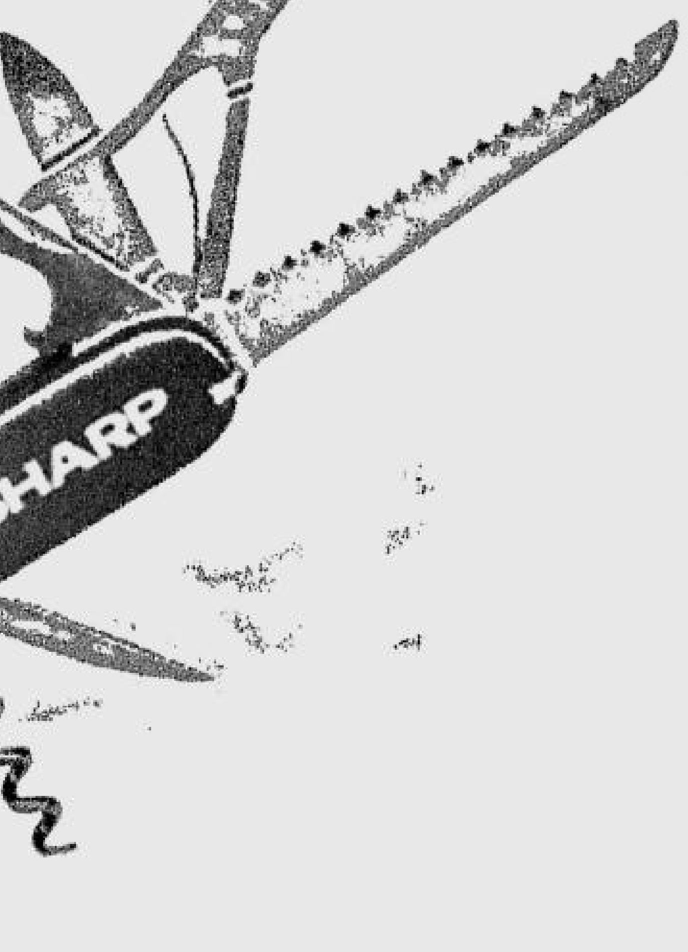

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Ericsson Mobility World Philippines to fuel local mobile Internet development

THE ERICSSON Mobility World, a global initiative to accelerate the development of the global and local mobile Internet market, was opened to the press and the general public in simple launch rites held recently at the Ericsson corporate headquarters in Ortigas, Pasig City.

Through a worldwide network of centers and web-based services, the Ericsson Mobility World will help network operators, developers, content providers and enterprises to collaborate on developing and bringing to market innovative applications and services for millions of mobile Internet users worldwide.

The Philippine center is one of many Ericsson hubs all over the world (such as New York, Düsseldorf, Madrid, Taipei and Sydney) where local developers are working on mobile Internet projects with Ericsson and its partners.

Ericsson plans to establish centers in all countries where there is major potential for mobile Internet, building on the Swedish giant's expertise and experience in developing industry partnership with companies of all sizes.

"The mobile Internet industry needs to create a critical mass of applications and services that people really want, and to get these to market as quickly as possible," said Anders Sundquist, chief finance officer of Ericsson Philippines. "The Ericsson Mobility World makes this possible by bringing together potentially thousands of companies to share knowledge, to create partnerships and to build the future. Through regional centers and web-based services, Ericsson Mobility World will enable companies to collaborate on creating innovative services and applications."

The global nature of Ericsson Mobility World is important because it gives operators, content providers and other companies access to tens of thousands of developers around the world. Both global and local companies benefit, particularly in markets where the existing developer community might be small. The advantage to developers is being able to offer skills to more than 400 operators worldwide and gain access to a global knowledge network. Consumers ultimately benefit too, through services that they can truly use in their everyday lives.

The Ericsson Mobility World Philippines will support partners through all phases of creating applications and services, from developing the initial idea, technical concept and business plan evaluation, through design, technical development, testing, network implementation and integration.

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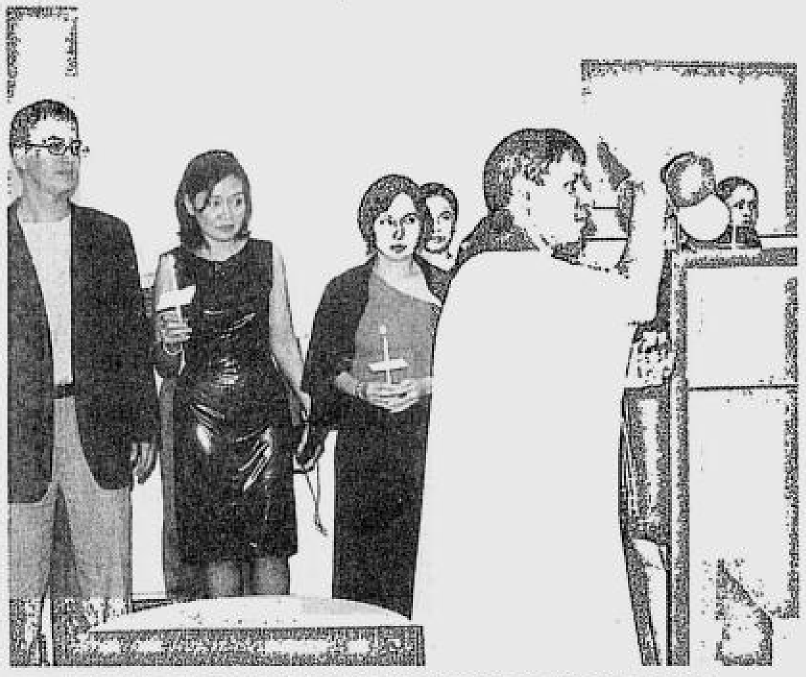
AETNA FETES SALES LUMINARIES

Aetna HealthCare recently paid tribute to outstanding sales and business associates for their exemplary performance and significant contribution to the growth of Aetna HealthCare through an intimate awards night held at the Manila Peninsula. Vicky Ongchangco, AVP of Marsh Philippines (second from right) is shown receiving the prestigious SVP Cup from Aetna HealthCare managing director Rien Hermans (extreme right), president Joe Dion (extreme left) and VP Jimmy Porciuncula (second from left). Aetna HealthCare Inc. is a member of the ING Group, an integrated financial services provider with over 50 million customers in more than 65 countries worldwide. ING is engaged in health and life insurance, banking and asset management and has been named by Fortune magazine as the No. 1 health and life stock insurance company in terms of profits.



7TH WAVE FOR THE NEW THINKERS COMPANY

The New Thinkers Company, a Makati-based integrated marketing communications company, recently celebrated its seventh year of operations with the formal inauguration of its new office located at the 9th floor of the Palisades Condominium along Perea Street, Legaspi Village. Shown are the company's officers (from left) Rommel Herrera, finance director; June Estrella, chief executive officer and Celina Matias, director of account management, during the blessing rites officiated by Fr. Robert McConaghy of the Greenbelt chapel. The New Thinkers Company is a full-service advertising agency established in 1994. Ranked among the country's top 20 ad agencies according to the latest report of the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines, the young and dynamic company provides strategic solutions and creative services to various clients which include companies ranked among the country's top 500. The move to a bigger, better location is part of the wave of changes the company has introduced this year.

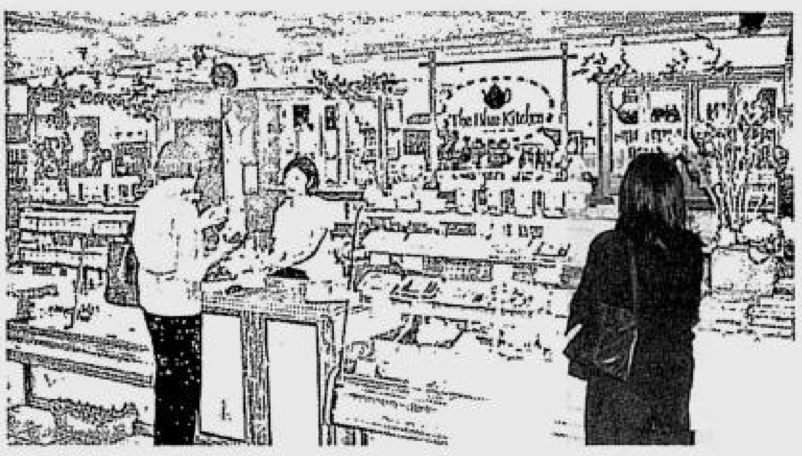
PNCC acquires new patrol vehicles

IN response to its campaign of transforming the tollways into a "Safe, Efficient, Environmental and Disciplined" (SEED) zone, tollway operator Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) recently acquired 15 new patrol vehicles to help traverse, guard and watch over the entire stretches of the North and South Luzon Tollways (NLT and SLT) for the safety and security of its users.

"The safety and security of our motoring public have always been the highest priority of PNCC. With the deployment of additional patrol vehicles along our tollways, we expect to immediately respond to any and all emergency situations and accidents that may arise anytime at any place within our jurisdiction," says PNCC chair and CEO Luis F. Sison.

"At the same time, patrol visibility has always been a deterrent to any criminality or unlawful acts inside the tollways. We hope to discourage any of these acts as our security officers regularly patrol our tollways. They will likewise be on a lookout for violators of tollways rules and regulations," Sison added.

Ten of the new patrol vehicles will be deployed at the NLT to complement the existing 14 patrols which are operating on a 24-hour basis while additional five patrol vehicles will be assigned at the SLT.



FRESHLY BAKED GOODIES WITH MONDEX CARD

Ensaymadas, wheat breads, cookies, native delicacies and other goodies galore can now be purchased at The Blue Kitchen (shown above), the specialty food shop located at the 6th level of Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Mall, using the Mondex Card, the 'wallet of the future'. To become a Mondex Cardholder, just go to any Mondex Card top-up station inside Shangri-La.

BITS Clips

Life, love, lust in Cebu

AYALA Center Cebu, together with Anvil Publishing Inc., will host a lecture and book signing session by popular clinical psychologist, advice columnist and TV personality Dr. Margarita Go Singco Holmes on Sept. 4, Tuesday, 5 p.m. at the new Ayala Entertainment Center in Ayala Center Cebu. Holmes, in her trademark fascinating and witty way, will again talk on issued regarding sexuality that aim to liberate men and women from cultural myths and shatter existing fallacies about sex. Admission to the event is free. For inquiries, call the customer service department, Ayala Center Cebu at (032) 231-5342 to 44.

Orthodontic lectures

THE ASSOCIATION of Philippine Orthodontists (APO) will be presenting back-to-back orthodontic lectures by two of the most sought-after lecturers worldwide at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel on Sept. 6, 7 and 25. The first course, "New Concepts in Orthodontic Treatment Mechanics", will be conducted by Dr. Richard P. McLaughlin on Sept. 6 and 7. He will discuss anchorage control, leveling and aligning, overbite control and reduction, space closure, bracket placement and finishing and detailing. The second course, "Current Concepts in Orthodontic Treatment with Preadjusted Edgewise Appliances" will be conducted by Dr. Anoop Sondhi on Sept. 25. For inquiries, call the APO Secretariat at 815-1122 or 892-6106.

ENMAP advanced energy seminar

THE ENERGY Management Association of the Philippines (Enmap), in cooperation with the Department of Energy, will conduct an advanced energy management training course from Sept. 6 to 8 at the Philippine Trade and Training Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. It will be held simultaneously with the 2001 Engineering Exposition, the most prestigious and largest gathering of engineers and technical practitioners covering the whole spectrum of industry and technology. Participants are free to attend the exposition. Enmap (890-7540) holds office at Suite 201, Veca Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Estrella Street, Makati City.

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VISA AWARDS P2-M SHOPPING MONEY

Visa International, represented by Visa marketing manager Jennifer Lee (right), recently awarded the grand prize in 'Livin' La Visa Lifestyle' raffle promo to Equitable Visa cardholder Jocelyn Aguilar. She will enjoy splurging her P2,000,000 or $40,000 prize money, now credited to her Visa credit card. Visa gave away a total of $50,000 worth of cash rebates to seven winners in the raffle promotion.

BUGS, TAZ, TWEETY INVADE CELLPHONES

It won't be long before we can have our favorite Looney Tunes characters on our cellphones. Bugs, Taz, Marvin and the rest of the gang will be available this September through Javicomm International Inc., a local company that has been granted to be the licensee of original Warner Bros. designs to be used for cellular phone applications. On July 24, the deal was closed between Javicomm International Inc. and Bates Licensing Inc., who handles the legal notices of Warner Bros. in the Philippines. For information on distribution, call Mark Javier, president of Javicomm International Inc. at (02)725-9441 or e-mail javs@mydestiny.net. Shown closing the deal are Jerry Javier of Javicomm International, Ito Feliciano of Bates Licensing, and Javier.

NPC TREE-PLANTING DRIVE IN BAGUIO

The NPC Watershed Management and the NPC Ladies Foundation spearheaded a tree-planting drive in Baguio recently. The two groups planted pine seedlings in the Binga watershed in keeping with the National Power Corp.'s commitment to a more active environment protection program in the Cordilleras. Shown are volunteers from the NPC Watershed Management department and the NPC Ladies Foundation planting the pine seedlings in their assigned areas.

PHILAMPLANS

PHILAM PLANS HONORS TOP PRODUCERS

Philam Plans recently awarded certificates of recognition to top sales counselors from the Manila South Sales Division at the Manila Galleria Suites. Present to hand the certificates were (left and right) senior vice president and head of marketing Luie Dy Buncio and Manila South VP Noli Diño.

YES TO INDIGENOUS ENERGY

Participants in the recently concluded conference on accelerating Indigenous Energy Development in the Cordilleras underscore the need to assist the government in resolving the conflict between harnessing the area's indigenous energy potential and protecting the native communities' interest. The two-day conference was organized by the Department of Energy, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and the Philippine Geothermal Inc. with the W. Sycip Policy Center of the Asian Institute of Management as principal facilitator. Posing for posterity are the members of the various delegations composed of representatives from private companies, government entities and members of the indigenous community.

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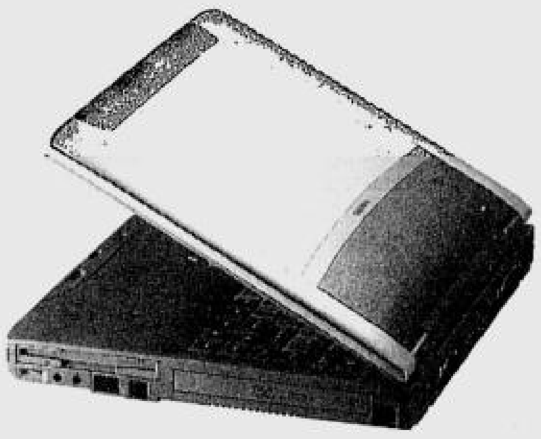

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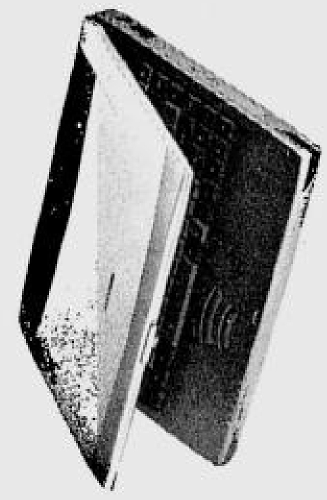

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Gains on homes, stocks key influence on economy

JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming—Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said on Friday capital gains from stocks and homes will have a powerful influence on the US economy's performance but that current measures of that impact are inadequate.

"The influence of capital gains on economic behavior . . . is likely to be of substantial consequence for the prospective performance of the economy," Greenspan said at a top-level meeting of central bankers and academics in Wyoming.

The so-called "wealth effect" has been a hot topic of debate in recent years—both during the massive run-up in equity values in the late 1990s and early 2000 and amid the steep downturn that ensued.

Greenspan's speech, his first formal address since he discussed the state of the US economy before lawmakers in July, marked the first time a Fed official has explained the central bank's bid to get a better handle on the impact of wealth on spending.

Economists said the speech did not shed any light on Greenspan's leanings for future interest rate policy. Financial markets took the same view, shrugging off the comments by the powerful Fed chief.

However, economists added that Greenspan's speech suggested that the wealth effect, and especially the importance of housing wealth versus stock market wealth, is a topic the Fed is struggling to understand.

"It's a speech that only an economist can love," FleetBoston Financial chief economist Wayne Ayers said.

"I don't think there are any immediate policy implications," he said, but "these speeches are always interesting because you can tell what the Fed board staff is up to. And what they're up to, of course, is what Greenspan is interested in, proving this is one of the top items on his list."

The Fed has cut interest rates seven times this year by a total of 3 percentage points to keep the US economy out of a recession. The key Fed funds rate, which influences borrowing costs across the economy, now stands at 3.5 percent, its lowest level in more than seven years.

US central bankers next meet to discuss interest rates on Oct. 2.

'Sheer Size'

In his speech, Greenspan said "the massive increase in capital values over the past five years" has had a profound impact on incomes but that it was hard to separate the impact of gains from different sources.

He noted capital gains on stocks and mutual funds in recent years have been two to four times the size of gains from home sales.

"The sheer size of such gains suggests that capital gains on equities have been a more potent factor in determining spending than gains on homes," the Fed chief told attendees at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's annual economic symposium.

Greenspan said the US central bank was interested in developing a clearer picture of how spending is affected by gains from different sources. *Reuters*

US investment flows slow in Q2

NEW YORK—Foreign purchases of US stocks and bonds slowed in June and the second quarter, according to new Treasury Department data, suggesting overseas investors' strong appetite for US assets may be fading.

The Treasury's monthly report on US transactions with foreigners in long-term securities, issued on Friday, showed foreigners bought a net $40.4 billion in US assets in June, down more than 30 percent from May's $58.7 billion.

In the second quarter, net portfolio investment into the United States totaled $129.3 billion, down from $156.9 billion in the first quarter of 2001, and compared with a massive $457.8 billion in all 2000.

"The data suggest that as the probability of a V-shaped recovery in the US has fallen, capital flows into the US are slowing," said Paul Podolsky, currency strategist at Fleet Capital Markets.

The reduced demand for dollar-denominated assets after banner inflows in 2000 and early 2001 are consistent with the dollar's recent slide from 15-year peaks on a trade-weighted basis.

"If this continues, there could be more downward pressure on the dollar," Podolsky said.

Because the United States has massive trade and current account deficits—meaning Americans send more dollars overseas to buy imports than they receive in export sales—any slowing in capital inflows can weaken the dollar.

The Treasury data showed net foreign purchases of US stocks fell to $10.4 billion in June from $17.3 billion in May. In the second quarter, net stock inflows totaled $34.3 billion from $41.7 billion in the January-March quarter.

Net demand for US corporate and agency bonds, while still historically strong, slowed to $33.4 billion in June from $38.2 billion in May. In the second quarter, demand for corporate and agency debt reached $109.1 billion, down from $112.1 billion in the first quarter.

Foreigners were net sellers of US Treasuries in June, selling $3.4 billion after net purchases of $3.1 billion in May. In the second quarter as a whole, overseas investors sold a net $14.1 billion in Treasuries after buying a net $3 billion in the first quarter. *Reuters*

Ford job cuts may go deeper, analyst says

DEARBORN, Michigan—US car maker Ford Motor Co. is likely to cut another 2,500 jobs on top of the 4,000-to-5,000 already announced this month, an analyst said Friday quoting inside sources.

The extra job losses would result from a consolidation of operations at the company's luxury Premiere Auto Group, said Nevada-based syndicated radio business columnist and analyst Howard Kenig.

"I am hearing a big chunk of that is going to be in Europe and a lot of that has to do with the creation of the Premiere Auto Group as an encapsulated entity," as operations were consolidated, Kenig said.

"It is going to be very, very substantial, not just another casual lay-off situation," he added.

"It will be a redistribution of power and of responsibility . . . right now, the Premiere Auto Group is an accumulation of companies (which have been bought up by Ford)."

Kenig said he had heard from sources within Ford that the company would consolidate staffing among salaried workers, particularly within its luxury car subsidiaries, including Lincoln, Jaguar, Volvo, Land Rover and Aston Martin, rather than deciding on wholesale sackings.

Ford chief executive Jacques Nasser had pointed to the possibility of further job cuts to reduce excess capacity in an interview with The Wall Street Journal published Thursday. *AFP*

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FORMIDABLE AND STRONGER

GLOBALBANK aims for the top

After the merger with Asianbank and Philbank last year, GLOBALBANK became the largest regular commercial bank in the country. Now it is focused on truly becoming a global bank for a 'globalized' world

BY RAQUEL P. GOMEZ

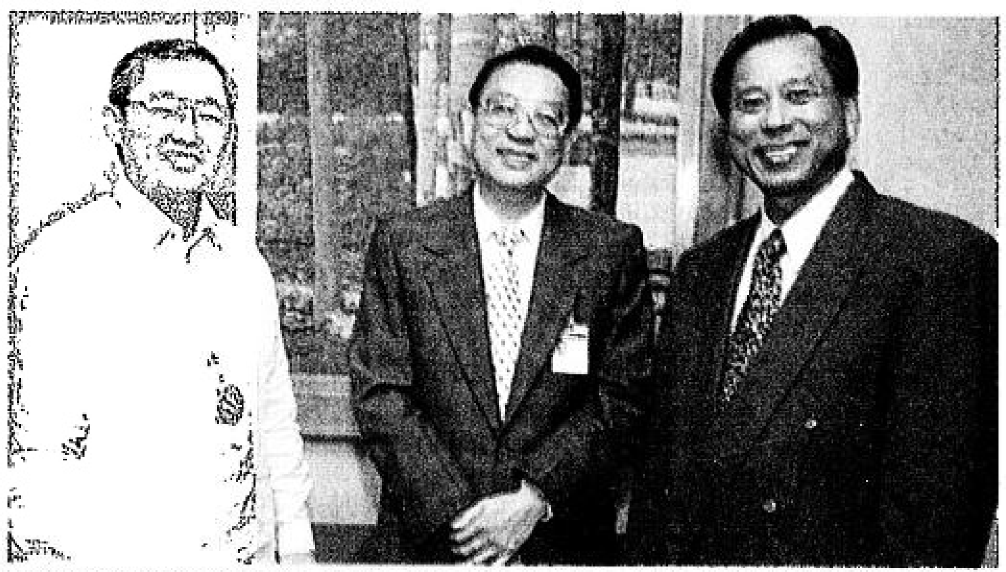
GLOBALBANK—established by Metrobank and Tokai Bank of Japan in 1997, merged with Philbank and Asianbank last year and assumed the legal identity of the 65-year-old Philbank. But since the bank needed to project a new energy-infused image to reflect its formidable strength and size after the merger, it adopted the name GLOBALBANK.

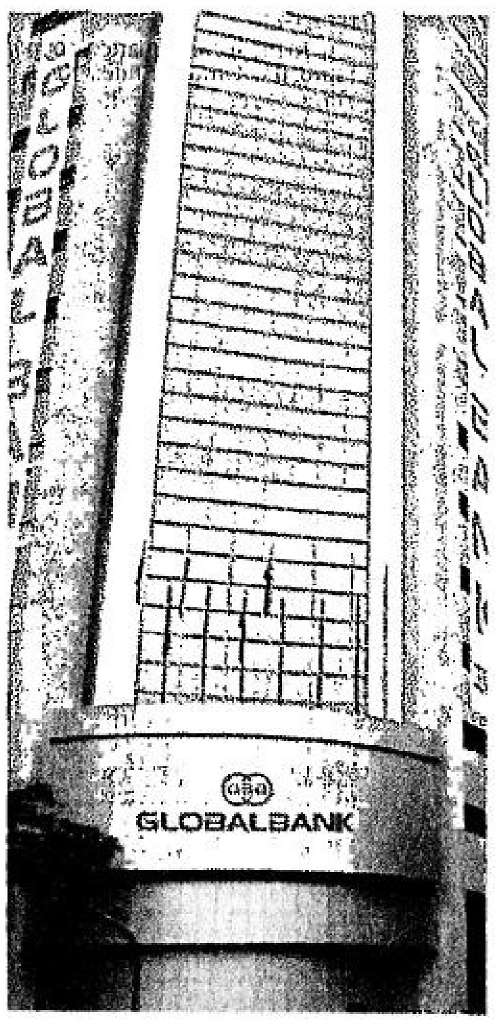
WHAT's in the name GLOBALBANK? Aside from a very recognizable green logo, the name spells propitious aura. It can refer to a bank that can service businesses in a border-less world headed for a future marked by E-business and technology.

GLOBALBANK may not have yet arrived there. But all its energy is focused on reaching that goal—a bank for a "globalized" world—now that the merger sparks that shook the bank last year have finally settled.

GLOBALBANK president Robin King is right on the mark when he explained the choice for the name "GLOBALBANK". "It's a good name to use because of what's happening now—globalization and electronic transactions. It is also consistent with our vision to be known not only in the Philippines, but also in the Asia Pacific region and even internationally."

Stronger and formidable, GLOBALBANK is currently the largest regular commercial bank with an increased capital of over Php7 billion and total resources of almost Php57 billion and a network of 144 branches nationwide.


FROM left: EVP Tsutomu Tezuka, Chairman Henry Sun and President Robin King.



Despite the heady crisis that marked Philippine politics and economy last year, GLOBALBANK posted a net income of P192.5 million. The bank has also capably managed to increase its non-interest revenues that resulted in doubling its fee-based income to Php1.2 billion. The merger last year also reduced overhead cost and increased operational efficiency of the bank.

GLOBALBANK has also managed to place No. 13 in terms of assets among the commercial banks operating in the country. "To be in the top quartile of the whole banking industry we have to be at number 11 or 12," says King. "We're getting nearer to that target," says King. "With regard to corporate philosophy, we always emphasize excellent service. That is why we want to be known as an innovator in developing products and services—because that is part of rendering excellent service."

As to the state of the bank after the merger, EVP Tezuka says GLOBALBANK is now busy launching new products. "We will focus more on building up our business volumes to further improve our profitability. In line with our mission to be an efficient provider of financial services, we will also endeavor to optimize information technology to support product development initiatives."

The three-way merger allowed the bank to assess its operational systems and build up on the best system to integrate. But what to do with a heap of bank products resulting from the merger? This became an opportunity too for the bank to innovate, integrate, fine tune, and enhance, resulting in the best products suited for the dynamic needs of clients.

GLOBALBANK is firmly supported by its affiliation with Metrobank, the country's largest universal bank, and Tokai Bank Ltd. of Japan, one of the largest banks in the world.

"In the banking industry, network is of prime importance. The very large networks of Metrobank and Tokai Bank works to our great advantage," says chairman Sun.

"Moreover, GLOBALBANK benefited from the exchange of expertise and technical know-how from our principals. We have officers who come from Tokai Bank and Metrobank, and we are proud of our management team for it is composed of professional and competent bankers. We consider that a strength," he says.

Celebrating it's 66th year today, GLOBALBANK's anniversary celebration will be highlighted by Mass and a program where some employees will be given loyalty and travel awards.

Part of the bank's anniversary activities are social projects that include providing volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, a bloodletting project (in cooperation with the Philippine National Red Cross) and organ donation by the employees (in cooperation with National Kidney Institute and Eye Manila).

These activities are not purely for helping the poor and marginalized sectors. They also serve as a means to promote camaraderie among the bank's employees.

"All these activities are really part of our corporate social responsibility. It is also a way of developing closeness among employees. So we are able to help others and, at the same time, ourselves," says King.

MESSAGES

WARMEST greetings to the men and women of GLOBALBANK on their 66th anniversary.

I congratulate GLOBALBANK for its meritorious achievements and contributions to national development. I applaud your corporate strategy and management that transformed GLOBALBANK into the largest regular commercial bank in the country. Your success is a further proof of the resiliency of our banking and financial sector.

The banking sector plays a pivotal role in promoting greater investments, facilitating savings mobilization and creating a more dynamic business environment in our country. Our Administration is committed to ensuring a strong banking sector that will greatly help Philippine businesses rise above economic difficulties and win for our people the opportunities in today's era of globalization. In this regard, I urge GLOBALBANK to persevere in its commitment to provide better banking services and contribute to our country's economic development.

Let us continue our work together in rebuilding our nation towards greater peace, progress and prosperity.

Congratulations on your anniversary. MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

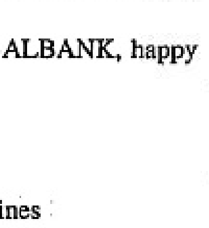
CONGRATULATIONS to the officers and staff of GLOBALBANK as you celebrate your 66th anniversary this year.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas continues to implement banking reforms with the view to developing regionally – as well as globally-competitive banks. It is noteworthy that GLOBALBANK has been fully supportive of these initiatives. Its union with two other banks last year, following Bangko Sentral's call for consolidations and mergers to further strengthen the banking system, has made it one of the major players in the financial markets in the Philippines and in the region. Its performance record reflects adherence to prudential banking regulatory measures.

On this auspicious occasion, I urge GLOBALBANK to strive for greater strength and efficiency to deal with the new risks and realities in the current highly competitive banking environment. I trust that you will continue to evolve new strategies and enhance your resources and expertise to further equip your bank in meeting the many challenges still ahead of us.

My best wishes for more years of progressive banking!

RAFAEL B. BUENAVENTURA
Governor
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas



CONGRATULATIONS to GlobalBank on its 66th anniversary!

The completion of its integration initiatives has elevated GLOBALBANK into the league of the country's largest commercial banks. While this is undoubtedly a significant achievement, myriad other challenges that the bank must now face come with this new standing. From tending the needs of an expanded client base and maintaining its share of the market, to sustaining its culture of efficiency while keeping a close watch on overall profitability, these challenges will surely test the mettle of everyone in the bank.

Nevertheless, with the wealth of expertise and experience as well as the depth of commitment of the people behind the bank, I am confident that GLOBALBANK will be able to emerge from this baptism of fire with flying colors.

To the officers and staff of GLOBALBANK, happy anniversary!

DR. PLACIDO L. MAPA JR.
President
Bankers Association of the Philippines

GLOBALBANK'S PEOPLE

You can bank on them

BY RAQUEL P. GOMEZ

YOU could tell a tree by its fruit. This goes for institutions as well. To know an institution is through its people. Here are GLOBALBANK's top people as they tell their colorful careers in banking and their aspirations for a bank that is geared to belong to the upper quartile of the industry.

'Providing excellent service is of prime importance to us'

MARTIN LEE

A TOOL to entice a prospective client is roughly through a combination of good pricing and establishing a relationship management afterwards, according to Martin Lee, head of the account management group.

The first involves a skill in quoting the right price at the right time and the second involves building a relationship with a client. The latter, he says, is where the distinctive "personal touch" comes. Which is to say the feeling of importance one endows to a client every time a transaction is made.

Lee has handled account management for most of his banking career. He started working with the banking industry in 1981, moving from one bank to another till he found his home at GLOBALBANK.

The lending responsibility has always been part of the asset side of the bank, not the liability, he says. And he adds that at the very heart of that responsibility is "communication."

"We do a lot of dealing with people that' s why communication is important. One of the crucial stage in lending is to know the client well."

Lee leads his team by example, the "driving principle" that moves him every day at work.

"If I can't do it, I don't expect my people to do it. If I ask my staff to do something, I will make sure that I can also do it."

Lee says he encourages his staff to work hard, with determination and focus. From time to time, he also cajoles them to be a little "ambitious"—to do more than what is expected of them.

Under Lee's group is the management of corporate banking products. He says after the settling down of the merger sparks and ironing out the operational interaction, the bank is now focused on meeting its target. On lending side, it wants to capture more of the corporate accounts.

Lee says the merger of three banks that resulted to the new GLOBALBANK only strengthened the bank's position in the industry. Since the bank's merger last year, he and his staff have become adjusted to the new invigorating culture of the bank, where providing good service is always of prime importance.

"GLOBALBANK is a bank that can give a good service, that we're competing every single way to provide excellent service. That's where we can differentiate ourselves from the other banks."

'Service should always be first rate, fast and accurate'

YASUNORI TANIKAWA

IF THERE'S anything SVP Yasunori Tanikawa feels amused about the Filipinos, it is the sum of experiences he's had since working here.

For one, the Japan Desk office Tanikawa oversees has been transferred five times since the Tokai Bank in Japan assigned him to work with GLOBALBANK in 1997.

Then there's the Filipino penchant for executing affairs or plans pronto without worry at all and with good results—often. The merger of the three banks that now form GLOBALBANK was facilitated

YOU CAN/ B14

Photos by BETOY JOHNSON

GLOBALBANK
An Affiliate of Metrobank (Phils.) & The Tokai Bank, Ltd. (Japan)

You can bank on them

(From page B13)

smoothly only in six months.

"If it's a Japanese bank, we'll plan two years ahead with very precise schedules," he says. "I think Filipinos are very relaxed. Of course Japanese has that pride, we sometimes feel our way is better. But come to think of it, it's not much different. That's what I discovered. It's easier to get comfortable here."

Many Filipinos often mistake him for a local, even though they address him as "Mr. Tanikawa." "They talk to me straight in Filipino from beginning to end."

He also found out that employees here aren't used to being given a dress down by a boss, which in Japan is a very normal thing.

But Tanikawa takes these samples of Pinoy culture all in humor, a factor, he admits, to his becoming a more "relaxed" person.

Through Japan Desk, Tanikawa keeps tab of Japanese firms operating here, which he says number to about 600. Most are located in the export processing zones. His department plans to increase its 160 clients to 200 by next year.

Japan Desk provides full banking services to Japanese owned companies in the country. It helps set up a company, provide financial services, establish payroll accounts, remittance, and other banking needs.

The Philippine assignment is Tanikawa's second overseas job. As a manager, he finds the job extremely challenging.

"First of all, we have to create a bank from scratch," he says referring to the establishment of "GLOBALBANK," the bank that existed before the earthshaking merger with Philbank and Asianbank. GLOBALBANK was then a small bank resulting from the joint venture of Metrobank and Tokai Bank.

"The first job I did, aside from paperwork, was to look after the construction of the original headquarters. Everything came in order, the carpentry—do we have to buy that generator? This bank gave me an opportunity to think management."

As a visionary, Tanikawa wants to pursue more changes in the bank such as establishing first class service and training of people. He wants his staff to be "idea" persons, or a people encouraged to think of solutions and own ideas rather than people who only follow instructions to the letter.

Service should always be first rate, fast and accurate. He says there's no need for a client to wait for an hour just to open an account, or fall in line just for a passbook update—a kind of service he's discovered in local banks here.

"One should give total service to the client. Total service means total relationship with a client." And this would be a breeze, says Tanikawa, with GLOBALBANK's stability and strength. "Our bank can provide that."

'The bank of many possibilities'

GLOBALBANK is an "emerging" bank according to Raffy Ayuste, Jr., FVP and head of the trust and investment group. He's not referring at all to a new established bank—GLOBALBANK is a product of three banks that merged, one of them has been established for more than 50 years.

RAFFY AYUSTE, JR.

By the word "emerging" Ayuste means the many possibilities—after the mergers—GLOBALBANK can do or accomplish for its now burgeoning clients. Ayuste's group is among the busiest now, in terms of product development and marketing.

Ayuste enumerates and explains all the products under his wing with enthusiasm. He knows where he speaks from. He's got years of experience in trust banking in at least three banks before he joined GLOBALBANK a year ago.

"The appeal to me at that time was you have three banks that merged and the potential is huge. It's exciting because the business of trust is not really that big at that time and I'd like building up things. I like to see things grow."

Ayuste says his style in managing people is "very relaxed." "I like to interact with people. You don't have to read me, I'm very transparent."

Ideas and creativity are encouraged in his team, which he's very proud of. He says even a bad idea coming from his staff can turn into a good one if it's explored further.

"Never shoot a person down and say he's got a stupid idea. When you do that, you actually kill the creativity of that person. Encourage people and give them focus."

Ayuste says with GLOBALBANK, he already found his home. The bank he says has very good image and has an "international flavor."

"We are innovative and that will differentiate us from other banks."

'It's a professionally run bank'

BIG things come from small beginnings. This was how Victoria Yu, SVP and head of the branch banking group, describes the appeal of GLOBALBANK to her when she joined the bank in 1998.

VICTORIA YU

Yu then left a prosperous job with another bank to join the newly established bank by Metrobank and Tokai Bank of Japan. Yu had not foreseen the bank's merger with two big ones.

"I like small institutions," she says referring to her inclination to always land in a small company that eventually grows. She says there's always the challenge in helping to make a small company a success.

Her first job was with a finance company with only five officers that included her. Then she moved to Citibank when its branches were only six. And now GLOBALBANK that expanded so soon with the mergers.

"We have grown too big, we just started small. And I find that very interesting."

GLOBALBANK now has 144 branches nationwide—88 in Metro Manila and 56 in the provinces. Aside from consumer banking it also offers private banking.

"I was hired initially to set up private banking. I trained six managers who are based in Binondo."

She then volunteered to help branch banking in sales and marketing. "We made the people there competitive. We taught them to go out and not to wait for people to walk in the branch."

Yu's job entails the management of the branches. So most of the time, she travels around the country as far as Mindanao to oversee operations.

The thrust of branch banking now is to optimize the use of technology to service the clients better and to make the branch lean and effective. A GLOBALBANK branch has only six to 12 people. "The challenge is to train them to think as one," says Yu.

"Demanding but rewarding"—this is how Yu describes her manner of dealing with her staff. "I'm hands-on and quite strict. My reputation always precedes me. But if my staff do well, I reward them."

Yu says that now the bank has grown big, she feels she has a big stake in it. "I feel very part of the bank. It's a good organization and it's professionally run."

'We look after the interest of our clients'

SIT with Gerardo Munarriz, VP and head of treasury group, for a little less than 30 minutes and you'd be convinced to change career and head straight into the money market.

The man has the gift of gab when it comes to interpreting and even divining the entangled numbers and figures of the stock market trading and foreign exchange trading.

Munarriz is as precise as his career of choice. "Transactions happen hour on the hour, minute by minute. I can tell what the markets are doing or if the exchange rate moves."

He speaks as if his job is the most comfortable. "A job at the treasury is easy. It's all (mathematical) addition and subtraction. The only difficult part is when we do division."

His chief job is to oversee a staff of traders, numbering to 15, who always speak on top of their voices inside the trading room—with Munarriz speaking the loudest.

GERARDO MUNARRIZ

"I happen to have a very strong trading team. They've been delivering the goods quite extraordinarily. All I have to do is to guide them more. Their trading instincts are well in placed. But what they need to do is to see the future better."

Treasury job isn't at all that simple, as Munarriz tries to explain. For one, it's the job that got Munarriz the "white hair" prematurely. ("It's obvious, you get white hair out of the job.") On the treasury group rests the responsibility of ensuring liquidity for the bank and contributing to the bottom line through money market and securities trading.

"My job is extremely challenging—to make the traders on their toes so they'll be able to spot opportunities. It's rather a fun work. There's pressure all around. I get reminded of it every day."

Munarriz, though a newcomer in GLOBALBANK, has been in the treasury job for 15 years, most of them spent in other banks. Here at GLOBALBANK, he offers his full experience in helping run mergers.

"I wish to give my own tencents worth of opinion on how things can better run. There's always room for improvement. I want to improve the efficiency."

To him, GLOBALBANK is a bank that "looks after the interest of clients at all times."

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To help you keep track of your transactions, Global Preferred Checking Account comes with monthly bank statements and a passbook. You can also access your account in more than 4,000 Megalink, Bancnet and Expressnet terminals nationwide. With Global Preferred ATM card, you can shop and settle your bills. You can also use Phonelink, Megalink's 24-hour fully automated phonebanking facility for your transactions.

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GLOBALBANK Invest Plus is a unique investment portfolio because it comes with an insurance package that assures not only income for your money but also guarantees protection against unforeseen eventualities.

GLOBALBANK Invest Plus comes with a three-fold insurance package that provides clients with Life, Accidental Death and Dismemberment, and Total and Permanent Disability Income benefits.

Growth of your money is assured because your funds are pooled together with the other common trust funds and invested in fixed-income instruments such as high-grade securities, credit worthy loans, prime commercial papers, notes, bonds, deposits, and other investments.

And most of all, GLOBALBANK requires only an initial investment of P5,000 and allows flexibility. You can withdraw your funds anytime after the requisite 90-day holding period.

GLOBALBANK Exceed

The demands of your growing business have become more and more complex that managing the benefits for your employees alone takes up time, effort and money on your part. There's a separate HMO company you have to deal with for your employees' health benefits, or a separate insurance company you have to attend to for your employees' retirement benefits. Why can't all these programs for employees be just under one umbrella?

The solution lies in **Globalbank Exceed**, a cost-effective superior employee benefits program that offers a comprehensive solution to your human resources needs. It has retirement plan, supplemental employee insurance plan, hospital income plan, and employee loan plan.

In just 30 working days, Global Exceed can already facilitate the process by handling the development and implementation of the Retirement Plan which includes creation of retirement plan rules, actuarial study, filing of BIR Tax exemption, and set-up of the retirement plan. It also gives you the option to pay death and disability benefit outside of the retirement plan.

With Global Exceed, you can have adequate protection for your employees since it provides services for three insurance coverages: Life, Accidental, Death and Dismemberment, and Total and Permanent Disability Income.

If your employees get hospitalized, Global Exceed's hospital income plan allows employees to enjoy daily allowances. As for loans, which is usually the service that employees always seek, Global Exceed provides that with the employee loan plan. This facility includes auto loan, housing loan and multi-purpose loan.

Just think about how Global Exceed can ease up your load by taking the responsibility of managing the employee benefits program. You can now have more time to focus on your main business.

GLOBAL Options

Piles of paperwork and staff doing overtime night after night just to manage your funds. You need an efficient and dependable system to do this. Why not try **Global Options**?

Global Options is an integrated cash management package aimed at easing the administrative workload of business institutions. It boasts of several service components that will aid businesses in the administrative area. One such component is the Deposit Pick-up Service where you can have your deposits, be it in cash or check, picked up by GLOBALBANK to ensure security for your money. GLOBALBANK also helps you manage your postdated checks by keeping track of their due dates and providing you with a complete inventory listing so you'll know exactly how much is due for credit at any given date.

Another is the Payroll Service which takes care of your payroll by providing each of your employees with an ATM card that allows them access to any of the more than 4,000 Megalink, Bancnet and Expressnet terminals.

An added feature of Global Options is the Check Warehouse Facility. Through this, GLOBALBANK will help the business manage its postdated checks by keeping track of their due dates and providing a complete inventory listing so that whoever is in charge of this will know how much is due for credit or still outstanding at any given date. Complementing the check warehouse facility, is the Check Disbursement Facility. It promises to be a secure yet systematic way in which to deal with accounts payable activities: This facility relieves the burden and time-consuming task of individually preparing, signing and releasing check payments. On the other hand, reconciling checks is no longer a problem because the bank will provide a report on checks prepared, released and outstanding. Plus, the account will only be debited on the day the check is negotiated by the payee, so the business' funds continue to earn interest.

Meanwhile, the Bill Payment Facility provides a more efficient way of doing collections at less cost. In this, GLOBALBANK's branches work as collecting agents when the business needs to collect payments from clients or subscribers on a nationwide scale, eliminating the expense of setting up the company's own collection offices nationwide. This facility even lets the business know how much has been collected daily including details of all payments made through the bank's network. And to do away with those worries on safekeeping cash and check collections, GLOBALBANK provides the Day and Night Depository which is readily available 24 hours a day.

Convenient banking technology is also at work in Global Options through Global e-Access, an online management system which allows clients to have access to their accounts with the bank using dial-up network technology seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Given these features of Global Options, it can be said that availing of this service could only mean better results for businesses.

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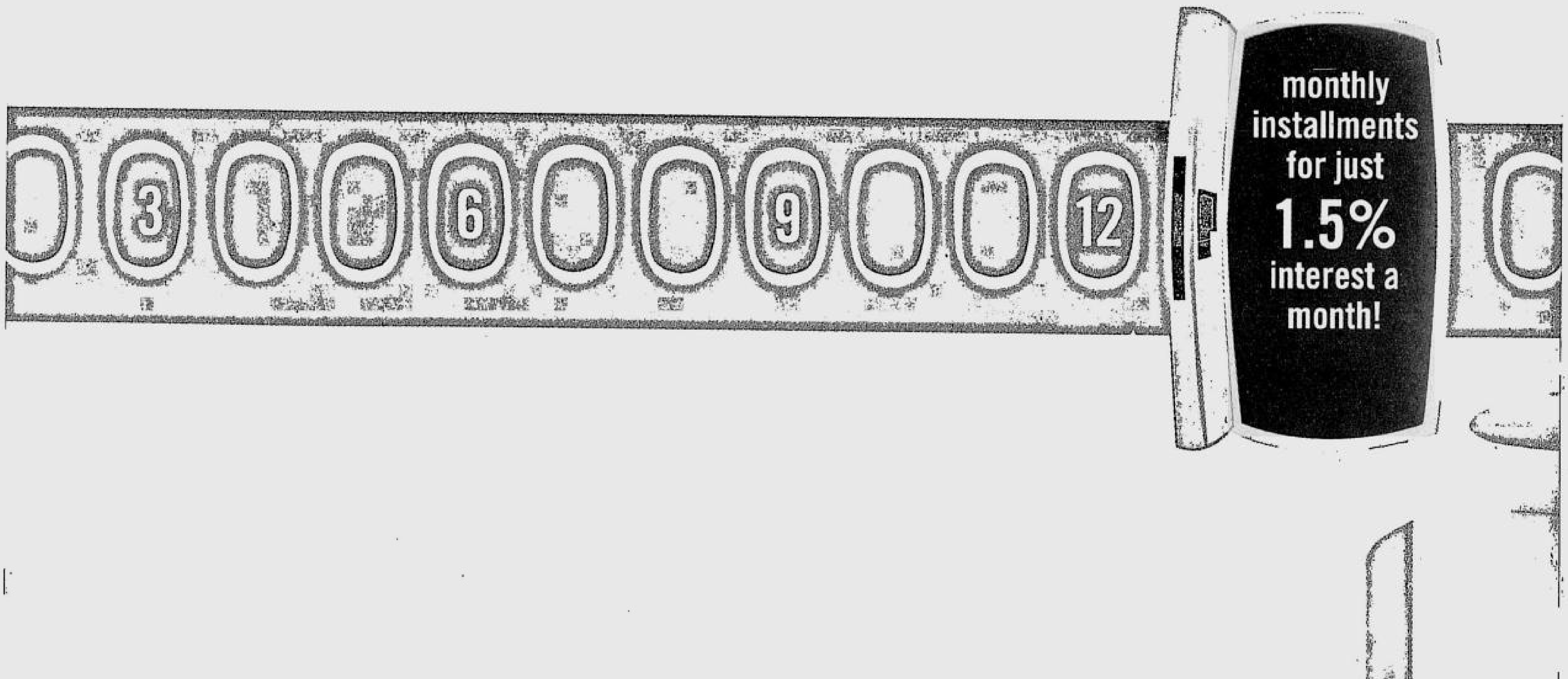
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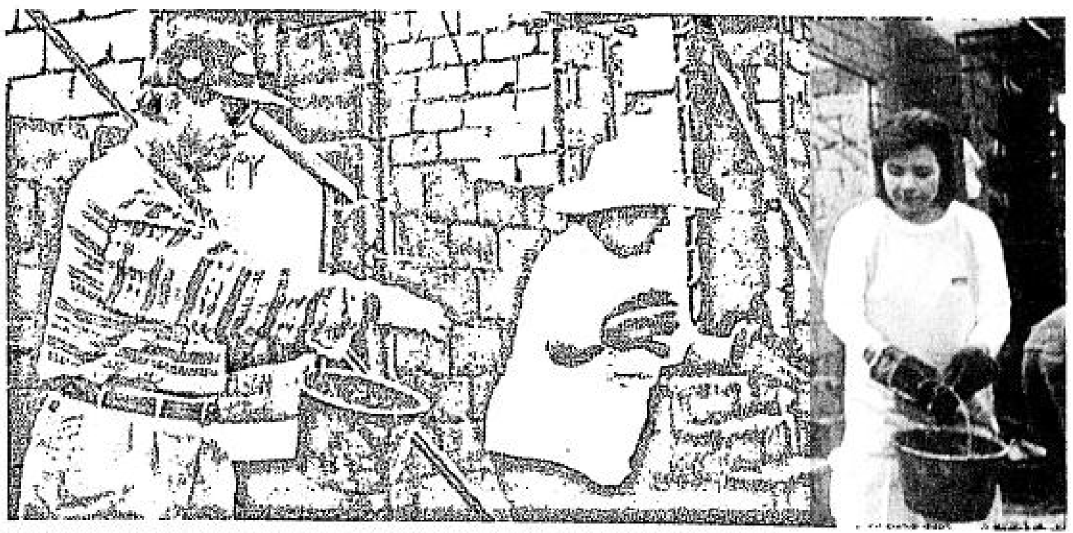

FROM left: President Robin King, FVP Imelda Nibungco, VP Tess Rivera.

Building a house for a cause

LAST August 18, some employees of GLOBALBANK, led by no less than its president Robin King, participated in the Habitat for Humanity project in Lucky Homes, Las Pinas. The project's opening was also attended by FVP Imelda Nibungco, FVP Agapito Capuno, FVP Rafael Ayuste, and VP Gerardo Munarriz and other officers and staff of the bank.

Under the scorching sun, GLOBALBANKers mixed cement and sand, dug ditches, moved hollow blocks, build concrete walls, nailed roofs and house partitions. The group worked in batches and shifts every day till they finally finished the house. The house was turned over to the beneficiary last September 1.

The project is part of GLOBALBANK's anniversary activity and also part of the bank's participation to social causes. The worthwhile project, aside from helping the poor, also developed closeness among the employees. They had fun working under the sun, bringing food and sharing it among themselves.

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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
July 5, 2001

DR. JESUS ESTANISLAO with GLOBALBANK officers.

Globaltalk expands officers' minds, experiences

GLOBALTALK is a monthly get-together of Globalbank officers. It seeks to provide them with an opportunity to enhance their knowledge on various topics for their total personal and professional growth. It also serves as a venue for exchange of views and also develops camaraderie and fellowship.

Two Globaltalk events have already been held. The first one was on July 5 where more than 200 bank officers gathered to listen to economist Dr. Jesus Estanislao, who talked about corporate governance.

In his talk, Estanislao stressed the need for the country to institute corporate governance reforms anchored on the principles of fairness, accountability and transparency.

The second Globaltalk was held Aug. 7 and was attended by MTRCB chair Alejandro Roces. He tackled the topic "Cultural Preservation: A National Imperative."

Roces narrated amusing facts and historical anecdotes and he also shared some of his significant contributions to the preservation of Philippine culture, heritage and literature.

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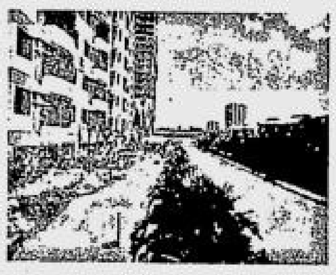

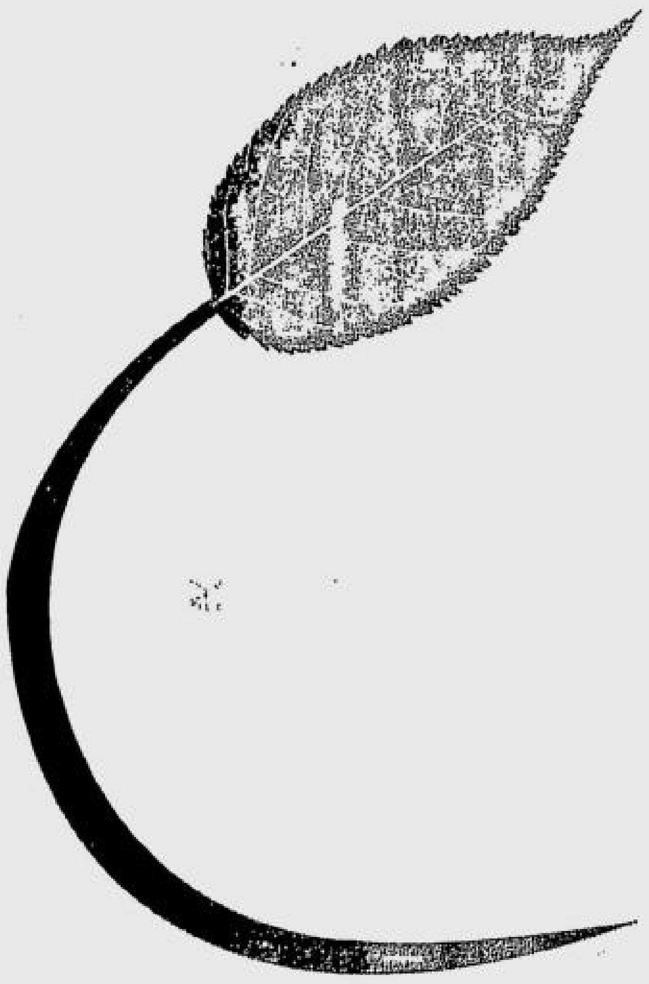

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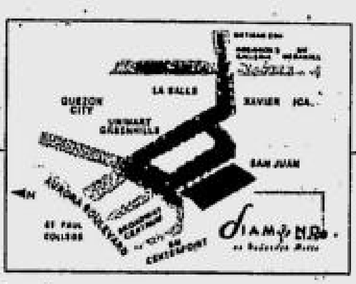

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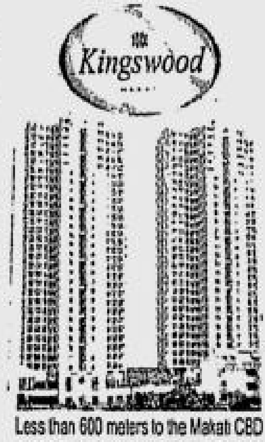

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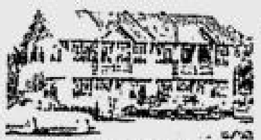

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AUCTION SALE

NUESTRA-DAMUS-NAV PAWNSHOP MAKATI CITY Auction Sale on Sept. 7, 2001 all unredeemed pledges during the month of April 1-30,2001. Nuestra Br. II Pio-9:30am; Nuestra Br. I-10:30am: Damus Br.I-Pasong Tamo 12:30pm; Nuestra Main-JP-1:30pm;NAV Pawnshop-2:00pm:Nuestra Br. IX Zapote-3:00pm **SONS OF J. LANUZA**-Auctioneer

NUESTRA-DIAJADE PAWNSHOP Las Pinas MM Will have its Auction Sale on Sept 6,2001. All unredeemed pledges during the month of Apr. 01-31,2001. Diajade Main 9:30am; Diajade Br.II-10:30am; Nuestra Br. III-11:30am; Diajade Br.I-1:00pm; Nuestra Almanza-2:00pm SONS OF J. LANUZA-Auctioneer

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
9th Floor, 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, City of Manila
☎ 5219421*5219463*5226832*5227531*5227529*5227533 *5227526*5244189*5244203*5244205*5244184
Fax No. 5219466

INVITATION TO BID

(Republication)

The Natural Resources Development Corporation will receive sealed bids on or before September 17, 2001 at 2:00 PM for the bidding on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis for the forest products described below:

LOCATION/DEPOSITORY AREA	ESTIMATED VOLUME/NO. OF PCS.	SPECIES/FORM
Brgy. Cabigaan, Aborlan, Palawan	689.21 cubic meters	Logs
Luzon Mahogany Timber Corp. (LUZMATIM) Brgy. Calumangin, Gumaca, Quezon	54.14 cubic meters	Assorted species (round logs)
Mr. Epifanio Bernardo Cmpd. Bgry. Sabang, Mauban, Quezon	77.46 cubic meters	Round logs
CENRO Cmpd., Real, Quezon	2,154.00 board feet	Assorted Lauan (logs & flitches)
CENRO Cmpd., Real, Quezon	1,849.00 board feet	Common Hardwood (lumber)
CENRO Cmpd., Real, Quezon Brgy. Kinanliman, Real Quezon	8,358.00 board feet 5.32 cubic meters	Lauan (flitches) Common Hardwood (logs)
BUNSACO Inc. Cmpd., Maug, Butuan City	66,011.00 board feet/ 21,021.00 pieces	Assorted species (lumber)
Freddom Woodcraft Cmpd., Butuan City	11,550.58 board feet/ 1,947 pieces	Lauan and Misc. species

Only legitimate timber licensees, log and lumber dealers, sawmills operators, plywood, veneer, paper mills and NACIDA Registered Industries, in case of those engaged in forest product other than wood, shall be allowed to participate in the bidding.

Deadline for the submission of the pre-qualification requirements shall be on September 10, 2001 at 5:00 PM.

The envelope containing the bids should be sealed and plainly marked "BID."

Forms and details and other information relative hereto are available from the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee, NRDC 9th Floor, 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, City of Manila.

The NRDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to accept only such bids deemed advantageous to the NRDC.

(Sgd.) ATTY. DIOGENES S. FERREZ
Chairman, BAC

(PDI -- Sept. 1, 2 & 3, 2001)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY

A large reputable Bank in Makati is accepting proposals to prequalify to bid for the:

Supply of Office Uniforms

The Bank requires the following to be submitted together with the formal offer to pre-qualify:

1. Proof that the offeror has at least three (3) years experience in Institutional uniform contracting and that the lead proponent has at least five (5) years of relevant management experience.
2. Written conformity to the following conditions:
   - Background check especially from previous clients shall be conducted by the Bank;
   - Spot checks of the shop shall be done by the Bank on current operation and existing facilities; and
   - A refundable Performance Bond (in cash or surety) equivalent to 10% of contract price shall be required by the Bank.
3. Company Profile and Latest Audited Financial Statements.
4. References from previous clients.

The Uniform Committee reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all Bids/Offers/Proposals. The decision of the Bank is final and binding.

Please address formal offer to: The Secretariat, Uniform Committee, P.O. Box 1996, Makati Commercial Center 1200. The Committee shall accept all submissions postmarked not later than September 12, 2001.

(PDI-- Sept. 1, 2 & 3, 2001)

LANDBANK

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
319 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 844-6913; 844-4610; 819-7332 (Direct Lines)
818-9411 to 20; 812-2008 & 843-7831 Locals 2320; 2308 & 2543

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals together with 10% bid bond for the purchase on CASH BASIS of the Bank properties listed below will be received at the LBP Multi-Purpose Hall, Wings A & B, bldg. I not later than September 13, 2001 @ 2:00 p.m. at which place, date and time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. In case of closely clustered top bids (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an open auction in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. The minimum increase in the open bidding should not be lower than P1,000.

	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
1)	One (1) unit Isuzu Elf Aluminium Van with Plate No. GHV-774	Toyota Alabang Compound, Bo. Diezmo, Cabuyao, Laguna	P228,800
2)	1996 green "Nissan" Sentra M/T with Plate No. PWM-505	Basement, Century Tower Condo. #100 Tordesillas St., cor. HV. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	160,000
3)	Ten (10) contiguous parcels of land with an aggregate area of 3,010-sq.m.	San Miguel District, Quiapo, Manila	310,137,500
4)	Two (2) contiguous parcels of land with an aggregate area of 7,677.52-sq.m.	Aurora Blvd., cor. Balete Drive, Cubao, Quezon City.	187,923,700
5)	Four (4) parcels of land with an aggregate area of 45,300-sq.m. with office/canteen/guardhouse/ quarter's bldg/ 2 warehouses elevated steel tank & front gate	Brgy. Diezmo, Cabuyao, Laguna	185,000,000
6)	300-sq.m. parcel of land with unfinished condo unit	J. Villena cor. Albert Sts., Poblacion, Makati City	11,662,500
7)	139-sq.m. parcel of land with 3-storey residential building	113-B, 8th Ave., East Rembo, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City	4,330,000
8)	134.20 sq.m. parcel of land with 2-storey residential buildings	105 Molave St., Project 3, Quezon City	2,390,000
9)	375-sq.m. parcel of land with two (2) residential bldgs, with floor area of 115-sq.m. & 163-sq.m. each	Lot 23, Blk. 4, Infant Jesus St., Metroville Subdivision, Pasig City	2,162,000
10)	Nine (9) townhouse units		
	Brentwood Heights (5)		
	Unit 118 - 68.73 sq.m.	Jerusalem St., Multinational Village, Parañaque City	2,400,000
	Unit 138 - 68.74 "		2,400,000
	Unit 139/140 - 68.74/72.44 sq.m.		4,800,000
	Unit 144 - 68.73 sq.m.		2,400,000
	Unit 166 - 68.74		2,400,000
	Sherwood Heights (4)		
	Unit 110 - 64.30 sq.m.	Jerusalem St., Multinational Village, Parañaque City	2,150,000
	Unit 111 - 62.30 sq.m.		2,150,000
	Unit 120 - 60.10 sq.m.		2,150,000
	Unit 164 - 60.00 sq.m.		2,150,000
11)	120-sq.m. parcel of land with 3-storey residential bldg.	Maunlad Homes, Mojon I, Malolos, Bulacan	2,113,000
12)	246-sq.m. parcel of land with one-storey residential bldg.	Prague St., Pasig Green Park Village, (Phase 2), Brgy. Santolan, Pasig City	1,910,000
13)	Two (2) contiguous lots with an aggregate area of 240-sq.m.	St. Joseph Subdivision, Almanza Uno, Las Piñas City	1,809,000
14)	416-sq.m. parcel of vacant residential lot (Lot 809-C-5-C-1-G)	Leonora St., Ramox Subd. Don Antonio, Quezon City	1,789,000
15)	416-sq.m. parcel of vacant residential lot (Lot 809-C-5-C-2-G)	-do-	1,789,000
16)	54-sq.m. parcel of land with 2-storey townhouse type residential bldg.	Road Lot 2, Pluto St., Happy Homes Village, Bahay Toro, Project 8, Quezon City	1,621,000
17)	347-sq.m. parcel of land	Golden Gate Subd., Bo. Talon, Las Piñas City	1,388,000
18)	180-sq.m. parcel of vacant lot	Dao Street, Town and Country North Subdivision, Abangan, Marilao, Bulacan	756,000
19)	169-sq.m. parcel of vacant lot	Araceli St., Metro Gate Subd., Phase II, Lambakin, Marilao, Bulacan	592,000
20)	Two (2) contiguous parcels of vacant lot with an aggregate area of 240-sq.m.	Maunlad Homes, Mojon, Malolos, Bulacan	432,000
21)	280-sq.m. parcel of vacant lot	Bo. Lambakin, Marilao, Bulacan	420,000
22)	5,132-sq.m. parcel of industrial/riceland with improvements and chattel	Brgy. Batuan, Ilaud, Oton, Iloilo	348,000
23)	11,258-sq.m. riceland	Brgy. Batuan, Ilaud, Oton, Iloilo	113,000
24)	Sixty (62) subdivision lots with individual titles to be bidded out per parcel basis follows:	Xavier Estate Subd., Upper Balulang, Cagayan De Oro City	

Not of lots	Lot Area (sq.ms.)	
44	200 to 555	3,000/sq.ms.*
9	500 to 500	3,300/sq.ms*
1	669	2,208,000
1	595	1,964,000
1	508	1,676,000
1	484	1,597,000
1	461	1,521,000
1	437	1,442,000
1	403	1,330,000
1	969	3,198,000
1	631	2,082,000

	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
25)	Seven (7) units generator/freezer		
	• One (1) unit, "Denyo" Indoor Diesel Generator Model DCA-85LBM, Serial No. 13207010	TP Marcelo Compound, Northbay Blvd., Navotas Metro Manila	120,000
	• One (1) unit, "Nissin" Contact Freezer Model BF-750-D, Serial No. 03870109 (compressor) E-86-229 (storage) 030802085 (cooling tower)		442,000
	• One (1) unit, "Nissin" Contact Freezer Model BF-1000 WD, Serial No. E-88-273 (storage) D30902243 (cooling tower)		670,000
	• One (1) unit, "Hitachi" Air-Cooled Water Chiller Model RCV753A		3,000
	• One (1) unit, "Nissin" Contact Freezer Model BF-500, Serial No. 03860076 (compressor) E-93-442 (storage)		406,000
	• One (1) unit "Denyo" Diesel Generator Model DCA-45, Serial No. 1326136		75,000
	• One (1) unit "Mitsubishi" Air Handling Unit Model FA-21 (compressor), Serial No. 0418182 (compressor)		7,000
26.	Twenty one (21) units of various chattels/machineries		
	• One (1) unit, "Southeast" High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Blowing Machine.		785,000
	• One (1) unit, "Tung Tai" Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE) Blowing Machine 1989-year model.	Bo. Perez, Meycauayan, Bulacan	265,000
	• One (1) unit, "Metro Gold" HDPE, Blowing Machine 1989-year model, driven by "Mitsubishi Super Line" 5.6-kw gear motor, Type		193,000
	• Three (3) units, "Metro Gold" Straw Making Machine 1990-year model, driven by 3.73-kw gear motor and centrifugal-type blower, powered by 0.746-kw electric motor		198,000
	• One (1) unit "Hsing Hsiang" Sando Bag Cutting Machine 1987 year model.		265,000
	• One (1) unit, "Hsing Hsiang" Automatic Sealing and Cutting Machines 1987-year model.		298,000
	• One (1) unit, "Sen Fa" Double Dic HDPE Blowing Machine Model SF 555, 1993-year model, driven by 30 HP gear motor, SN 6314-631027.		879,000
	• One (1) unit, "Parkins", Automatic High Speed Sealing and Cutting Machine, double deck, Model BJA2, SN 2065		598,000
	• One (1) unit, "Parkins" Automatic High Speed Sealing and Cutting Machine, (hotseal), Model FTB, SN 1930.	Bo. Perez, Meycauayan, Bulacan	635,000
	• One (1) unit, "Parkins" Automatic High Speed Sealing and Cutting Machine, (hotseal), Model BJAB SN 1929		635,000
	• One (1) unit, "Fu-tai" Automatic High Speed and Cutting Machine, (hotseal), Model FTB, SN31004		684,000
	• One (1) unit, "Fu-tai" Automatic High Speed Sealing and Cutting Machine (hotseal), Model FT, SN 35007		796,000
	• Two (2) units "Sing Sang" Automatic Heat Cutting Machine for Vest-Type Bag Model BJAA		781,000
	• Five (5) units "Senfa" HD Inflation Machine, Model SF45		3,892,000
27)	One (1) unit Valmet 4WD Agri Tractor Model V665-4L with Serial No. D3859	Cauayan, Isabela	698,505.50

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, then the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

Bidding forms may be obtained from the Office of the Vice President, Special Assets Department (SPAD). Land Bank of the Philippines, Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above listed properties before entering their bids. The sale of the properties shall be AS-IS-WHERE-IS. The winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded properties without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder/s shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities/President of the Republic of the Philippines whenever applicable.

LAND BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS. TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE LBP SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

ANTONIO T. HERNANDEZ
Chairman
Committee on Bids and Awards

* For details/information on the exact description (Area, Phase No., Lot/Blk. No., Title No., etc.) of the individual lots re item No. 24, please contact Mesdames Andrea Fajardo and Femma Cabusas at the above-mentioned nos.

(PDI--Sept. 3, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P., Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the:
Supply of:

62 AGRICULTURAL FARM TRACTORS (WITH AND WITHOUT FARM IMPLEMENTS)

Brand	No. of Units	Farm Implements	Budget Per Unit
John Deere 6610	39	Mouldboard Plow	Php2,000,000.00
6505	6	No attachment	1,600,000.00
	1	Disc Plow	2,000,000.00
6205	5	No attachment	1,600,000.00
Massey Ferguson 4270	4	Mouldboard Plow	2,000,000.00
4255	1	Mouldboard Plow	1,980,000.00
390E	5	Disc Plow	1,500,000.00
Landini 115	1	Mouldboard Plow	2,000,000.00

Total Budget : Php118,280,000.00
To be delivered to different points in the Philippines
Quotations shall indicate cost of units with and without farm implements.

Only pre-qualified bidders as of **September 11, 2001** shall be allowed to participate in the Public Bidding to be held on **September 17, 2001** at the SRA Social Hall at 9:00 a.m.

Pre-qualification forms shall be issued starting **September 3, 2001** and the deadline for the submission of said requirements shall be on **September 6, 2001.**

The list of qualified bidders shall be released on **September 11, 2001.** Thereafter, bid forms shall be issued for a non-refundable cost of Php500.00 each.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on **September 13** at the SRA Social hall at 9:00 a.m.

All bids must be accompanied by bid bonds in the amount of 5% of the total cost of the tender or offer-either in cash, Manager's check of GSIS bond.

For further inquiries, please call:

THE SECRETARIAT
SRA Bidding and Awards Committee
Tel. No. 929-6837

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality or defect therein, and to accept any or all offers that may be considered most advantageous to the SRA.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI - Sept 1, 2 & 3, 2001)

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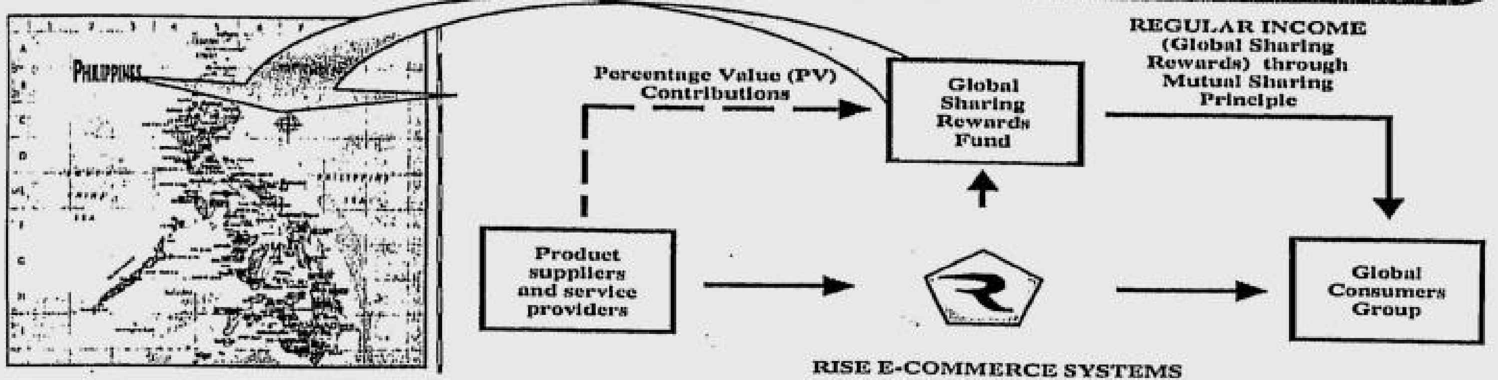
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For Systems inquiries and/or orientation, visit or call our Business Center Operation (BCO) near you. (We will further set up BCOs in other areas soon...)

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CP # 0919-4339797 / 0919-8990289

◈ ***RISE Project 8, Quezon City***
106-B Rd. 20, Project 8, Quezon City
Tel. # (02) 425-1443/454-0800/454-0619
Fax #(02) 927-2314 CP# 0917-8118079
Email: rrreds@pacific.net.ph
Orientation: *9 AM – 6 PM (Tues. – Sat.)*

◈ ***RISE Roosevelt, Quezon City***
Ms. Maryle Tasca
Unit 7, 3rd Flr., 316 Roosevelt Ave., SFDM, Quezon City
Tel # (02) 330-9259
CP # 0917-5401634

◈ ***RISE – VALENZUELA CITY***
Ms. Mildred D. Datuin *(contact person)*
Unit #1 Keppelson Bldg., #51 Mc Arthur Hi-way, Marulas, Valenzuela City
Tel. # (02) 277-2163 to 64

◈ ***RISE CYBER CENTRAL***
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. # (02) 931-8003
CP # 0917-8374464

◈ ***RISE – Parañaque City***
Ms. Marilou Espiritu
84C Doña Soledad Ave., Better Living, Parañaque City Tel. # (02) / 821-1188 /821-4764 / Telefax # (02) 821-1155
CP # 0919-4482698
Orientation Schedule: Sept. 06 & Sept. 08, 2001 (Thurs. & Sat.) @ 4 PM – 6 PM
E-mail: lhouespiritu@yahoo.com

◈ ***RISE E-CUBAO***
Ms. Nila D. Cañezal
Rm 403 Diamond Bldg., 603 EDSA Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. #(02)418-2729/CP # 0917-4948023

◈ ***RISE – PACO***
Mr. Allan T. Resterio
1155 JL Escoda St., Paco Market, Paco, Manila
Tel. # (02) 562-0645 / 524-9549
CP # 0919-8012633 / 0917-4987682

◈ ***RISE CYBIZ-QUEZON CITY***
Ms. Le Guzman
#18 Antonio Luna, Proj. 4, Q.C.
Tel. # (02) 9138564
CP # 0917-3871028/ 0919-832-8771
Email: go4gold@edsamail.com.ph

◈ ***RISE E-Novaliches***
Ms. Emma C. Daniel
#223-E General Luis cor. Gold Sts., Novaliches, Q.C.
Tel. # (02) 935-8381 / 983-0346
CP # 0919-8723689

◈ ***RISE E-Commerce Marikina***
Ms. Erlinda C. Sernadilla
Rm 302 #51 Bayanbayan Ave., Marikina Heights, Marikina City
Tel. # (02) 934-7764
CP # 0919-3949151

◈ ***RISE CHIT-PANDACAN***
Ms. Necita D. Salvio
1944 A. Sampaguita St., Pandacan, Manila Tel. # (02) 561-6605

◈ ***RISE Commonwealth Group***
Ms. Ofelia J. Ballesta
628 Grapes St., Commonwealth Ave., Q.C. Tel. # (02) 932-2490/428-0840

LUZON BUSINESS CENTERS

◈ ***RISE Excel-Pangasinan***
Mr. Manuel G. Valdez
Nancayasan, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan / Tel. # (075) 568-5116
CP # 0917-4473280

◈ ***RISE – DAGUPAN***
(Schedule of Trainings: Tues. & Thurs. @ 2 PM and Sat. @ 9:30 AM & 2 PM)
Ms. Tonith Bornolia
Tel. # (075) 523-4264/CP# 0917-7420556
Ms. Imelda Sarmiento (075) 515-6755
CP# 0919-6649784
Ms. Emily Soriano (075) 515-4066
43 Perez Blvd., Dagupan City
CP # 0917-3654775

◈ ***RISE – BINAN, LAGUNA***
Ms. Lilibeth P. Gabriel
Unit 305, University Center, National Hi-way, Biñan, Laguna
Tel. # (049) 839-0878
CP # 0919-8195899 / 0919-5766235

◈ ***RISE DINS E-COMMERCE, BAGUIO CITY***
Engr. Ferdinand G.Tangalin
Ms. Bella Navalta
Rm 204 National Life Bldg., 110 Session Rd., Baguio City
CP # 0919-2182997 / 0919-6709848

◈ ***RISE – VIRMAL, BATANGAS CITY***
Mr. Virgilio M. Lichauco
Lyceum Site, Kumintang Ibaba, Batangas City / Tel. # (043) 300-2001
Telefax # (043) 300-5815

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SUB-CENTER

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Ms. Nerry U. Gayatgay
203,2nd Flr. Nite Plaza,Tajanlangit St., Miag-ao, Iloilo
Tel. # (033) 315-9614 / 315-9370

☐ ***RISE – Calle Real Center***
B & C Bldg., Solis cor. Iznart St., Iloilo City CP# 0918-7233673

☐ ***RISE – Multirich***
AMIGO Plaza Mall, Iznart St., Iloilo City
Tel. # (033) 337-9252
CP # 0917-6405120 / 0919-6528190

☐ ***RISE – Jaro***
Mr. T.O. Omero
OMERO Photoshop
(J.M. Basa Branch & Jaro CPU Branch)
Tel. # (02) 337-0930

◈ ***RISE – Tagbilaran City, Bohol***
Tel. # (038) 235-3853
CP # 0917-8118079
Email: rrreds@pacific.net.ph

◈ ***RISE – PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN***
Mr. Nixon M. Edora
BM Road, Puerto Princessa City
Tel. # (048) 433-5254

◈ ***RISE – KALIBO, AKLAN***
1503 G. Pastrana St., Kalibo Aklan
Tel. # (036) 262-3562
CP # 0917-6445180 / 0917-8441050

◈ ***RISE – NYALA BACOLOD***
Ms. Maria Suzita *"Zitte"* Diaz-Ea
NYALA RENT-A-CAR
C7 Goldenfields Commercial Complex, Singcang, Bacolod City
Tel. # (034) 433-1049 / 434-4589
CP # 0918-9403282
E-mail: nyala@wbl.ph

◈ ***RISE – MANDAUE CITY, CEBU***
Mr. Samuel J. Quiño
801 Albaño St., Subangdaku, Mandaue, Cebu
Tel. # (032) 345-9711

SOON TO OPEN...

RISE CEBU CITY
Unit 8 Galleria Fuente, Mango Ave., Cebu City
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education, Culture, and Sports
Third Elementary Education Project

Invitation for Bids

Date: August 31, 2001
Loan No. 4108-PH
IFB No. P1SU-CO/172001-WB

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (through the Department of Education Culture and Sports (DECS) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the financing of Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for supply and delivery of School Furniture to Selected Public Elementary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), Central Project Implementation Support Unit (CPISU) for Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of school furniture to selected public elementary schools in the Philippines.
3. For the purpose of this bidding, eligible bidders shall be those who have experience in the supply or selling and distribution or delivery of school furniture. The Purchaser will grant a margin of preference to goods manufactured in the Philippines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may inspect the bidding documents at or obtain further information from the Office of Bids and Awards Committee for Foreign Assisted Projects (BAC-FAPs), Ground Floor Rizal Bldg. II, DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Tel. # 632-1361 local 2085 or 636-6542, *http://www.decs.gov.ph*.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting **August 31, 2001**, upon submission of letter of intent to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).
6. The provisions in the Instruction to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank *Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods*, January 1995, revised March 2000.
7. Bids must be delivered to the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines, on or before 10:00 A.M. on October 23, 2001, and must be accompanied by a security of not less than two percent (2%) of total bid price.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend at 10:00 A.M. on October 23, 2001 at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building, I, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
9. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on **September 18, 2001**, 10:00 a.m., at the address indicated in paragraph 8.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary and Chairman
DECS-BAC

(PDI--Sept. 3, 5 & 7, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Pambansang Korporasyon sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
AD NO. PD 2001-44

Rebidding Date: September 12, 2001

PB010822-T3WG6524	BATTERY BANK, 48 volts, Gel type, Maintenance Free
PB010822-T3JR6525	TIG WELDING GLOVES
PB010822-T3JR6527	SHAFTING BARS
PB010822-T3JR6528	LABORATORY CHEMICALS (Acetone, Perchloric Acid, Sodium Peroxide, Potassium Disulfate)/ CLEANING SOLUTION, Heavy Duty, Water Soluble, Non-toxic
PB010822-T3JR6530	LOAD METER INDICATOR, 09-384001-1 for Super King Air 350 RP-2850
PB010822-T3JR6547	SERVICES: One year supply of Mineral/Purified Water
PB010822-T3JR6548	SERVICES: Job Order for the Installation of Additional Conduit & Cable Tray at Mexico S/S, Pampanga/Expansion of Cable Trench/repair of Mitsubishi Stake/Boom Truck
PB010828-T3JR6567	SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL (UNLEADED GASOLINE & DIESEL) CONFORMS WITH THE QUALITY STANDARDS PRESCRIBED UNDER RA #3749-CLEAN AIR ACT (To be purchased thru Open Ended Purchase order for a period of six months starting October 2001
PB010828-T3JR6616	OFFICE/COMPUTER SUPPLIES (Ink Cartridge, Bond Paper, etc.) (To be purchased thru Open Ended Purchase Order for a period of six months)
PB010828-T3JR6615	AUTOMOTIVE SPARE PARTS FOR NISSAN URVAN, Model 1998 (Brake Master Assy., Hose Control, Clutch Fan, Alternator, Stabilizer, etc.)
PB010828-T3JR6596	BEARING, Pillow Block/ball Single Row, Wide Size, Fix type
PB010828-T3JR6569	SERVICES: Annual Medical Laboratory Examination (CBC, Urinalysis, X-ray, etc.)
PB010828-T3JR6561	SERVICES: Job Order for Gear Cutting of Worm Gear for Clarifier Agitator

**** Bidding Date: September 21, 2001 - 10:00 AM**

2001-44-01	LUBRICATING OIL, Industrial, Viscocity Grade: 32/46/68/10
2001-44-02	TELEPHONE SET, Single Line Telephone w/ 4 pin Connector
2001-44-03	AIRCON SPARE PARTS (Auxiliary Fan, Compressor, Evaporator Assy., etc.)
2001-44-04	SAFETY MATERIALS (Working Clothes/Shoes, Safety Helmet, Ear Plugs, etc.)
2001-44-05	OFFICE SUPPLIES (Fastener, etc.) (To be purchased thru Open Ended Purchase Order for a period of six months)
2002-44-06	CONSTRUCTION/ELECTRICAL HARDWARE & SUPPLIES (Sand, Gravel, Hose, Pipe, Ballast, Starter, Flourescent Lamp, Elbow, etc.)
2001-44-07	AUTOMOTIVE SPARE PARTS (Brake Pad, Disc/Bearing Assy, etc.)
2001-44-08	SERVICES: Supply of Labor & Materials for the Internal Coating of Transformer Oil Tanks
2001-44-09	SERVICES: Supervision, Calibration & Transportation of Ultraviolet Light Meter, Type BCI 95

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Accreditation forms can be obtained from Mondays thru Fridays at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 2 upon payment of P50.00, submission of company's TIN and proof of listing at the telephone directory. **Deadline for submission of duly accomplished forms to participate in this bidding is on **September 11, 2001.**

Bidding documents available on **September 3, 2001** upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable, presentation of original Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE). **Last day of issuance of bidding documents **September 14, 2001.**

Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 A.M. For inquiries please call no. 921-25-74.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI--Sept. 3 & 5, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the Estate of the late EUSTAQUIO ABUEL has been partially settled extrajudicially by the heirs per Doc.330 page67,BkVI series of 2000 bef. not. pub. Atty. Gregorio Dino of Las Pinas City
PDI - Sept. 3,10 & 17,2001

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RAMON B. GONZALES has been extrajudicially settled with Quit Claim among the heirs as per Doc.#105; Page#21; Book#108; Series of 2001 before ATTY. H.B. BASCO, Notary Public

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that stock certificates no. A0164, A12033, A14866, A16275, A17630, A2623, A3599, A5023, A8380, A9614 and AX0246 covering a total of 110,740 common shares issued by Central Azucarera de la Carlota in favor of Rosa Bengoa Madariaga were lost.
(PDI-Sept. 3, 10 & 17, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pray for us.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, for favor granted.

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"
Motor Vehicles

1996 Toyota Camry/UNR-160
1995 1997 Honda Civic 1.6/UTL-967
2000 Yamaha MC/TC-8811
1992 Honda Civic/TEU-158
1998 Mitsubishi Lancer/WDD-991
1998 Honda Civic 1.5/UUB-221
2000 Ford Lynx 1.3/WRH-960

For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc./Dick Carino. Tel. No. 75-43-457

(PDI – Sept. 1, 2 & 3, 2001)

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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
SBMA Building 255, Barryman Street, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the project described below are invited to apply for Application for Eligibility and to Bid with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport, Olongapo City. Only eligible contractors will be invited to participate in the forthcoming bidding.

A. Name and Location of Project : **PROPOSED SUBIC BAY FREEPORT CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (CBD) CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (PACKAGE 1) (Magsaysay Boulevard from Rizal Highway to Intersection of Aguinaldo Street and Raymundo Street).**

B. Project Description/Scope of Works:

The proposed project shall include securing/applying of all permits, supervision, labor, materials and equipment required for the Proposed CBD Construction and Development (Package 1).

The proposed CBD Construction and Development (Package 1) includes the following:

a) Earthworks, Subbase and Basecourse preparation
b) Roads, Pavement and Sidewalks and Traffic Management
c) New and Relocation of Utilities (Sewers, Water System and Water Main, Electrical Power Supplies, Street Lighting, Telecom, Catv Lines)
d) Landscaping and Hardscaping
e) Drainage System

C. Approved Budget Cost: Php - 35.0 M

D. Required PCAB Registration and Classification/License:

PCAB Principal Qualification and Category
General Engineering "AA"

Kinds of Project and Respective Ranges
Roads, Highway Pavement, Horizontal "LA"
Structures and Bridges

E. Cost of forms for Application for Eligibility and to Bid, dates and place of issuance: Php 200.00 (non-refundable);

Issuance date: September 24 and 25, 2001 only, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Engineering Department, PWTSG, SBMA
Room 223 Building 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ

F. Deadline for submission of Accomplished Application for Eligibility to Bid: October 2, 2001, 5:00 p.m.

Address to:

ATTY. CHITO M. CRUZ
BAC Chairman/Sr. D.A. for Support Services
c/o Engineering Department
Room 222, Building 255 Barryman Road
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

G. Time and date of submission and opening of Bids, Pre-Bid Conference and Site Inspection shall be confirmed in the Notice of Eligibles.

Application for Eligibility and to Bid is open to all contractors with valid PCAB (Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board) Contractors License and Registration. Prospective bidders are required to submit a Letter of Intent and Certified True Copy of the Contractors License upon purchase of the forms for Application for Eligibility and to Bid and shall bring the original copy of the Contractors PCAB License Classification Registration for verification and authentication purposes.

Bid Documents shall be issued only to the eligible contractors duly notified by SBMA in writing upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.

All particulars relative to the eligible process, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the latest provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations as Amended.

The SBMA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **CHITO M. CRUZ**
BAC Chairman/Sr. D.A. for Support Services

(PDI – Aug. 26, Sept. 3 & 9, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT of AGRARIAN REFORM
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. XI
Quimpo Avenue, Ecoland Davao City
Tel. No. 6-21-50

CARP Form No. 5: NOTICE OF COVERAGE

March 21, 2001

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given to the landowners and or duly authorized representatives that pursuant to Section 7 of RA 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, the following landholdings are now covered under Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, to wit:

Davao City:

	Name of LO	Title No.	Area (has.)	Location
1.	Phil. Daily Express	T-37721	8.9948	Wangan, Calinan, DC
2.	Daisy Latayan	T-12190	7.1454	Malagos, Baguio, DC
3.	-do-	T-12192	6.0976	-do-
4.	Jose Latayan	T-12903	10.0924	-do-
5.	Anacorita Lamparas	T-13142	6.9819	Cadalian, Baguio, DC
6.	Crispin Villanueva	P-3227	9.5501	Carmen, Baguio, DC
7.	Manuel Vilanueva	T-15997	9.2969	Baguio Proper
8.	Elena Resurreccion	T-18981	10.6692	Tamugan, Marilog
9.	David Mejia	T-52790	13.6703	Carmen, Baguio

Davao Norte and Comval:

	Name of LO	Title No.	Area (has.)	Location
1.	Renato Mercado	P-11979	13.5099	Pob., Nabunturan
2.	Manuel Abello	T-15146	19.4100	Carmen
3.	Francisco Perez	P-20802	14.5509	Concepcion, Maco
4.	Inaki Isasi	T-14317	6.8928	-do-
5.	Ruth de Leon Bacalla	T-24601	10.3421	Lapu-lapu, Maco
6.	Juanita Mabasa vs. De Go	T-11999	7.2789	-do-
7.	Bienvenido Angeles	O-62	30.2178	Banlag, Monkayo
8.	Sammy Yap	T-3502	17.4267	Banlag, Monkayo
9.	Vicente Buot	T-885	17.2882	Kingking, Pantukan
10.	Isidro Ebero	T-8372	17.0881	Napnapan, Pantukan
11.	Petronilo Nardo	T-527	8.7590	Tapia, Montevista
12.	Reynaldo Villarde	T-23660	6.9633	New Visayas, Montevista, Comval
13.	(Jose Tolentino) Phil. Am. Realty Finance Corp.	O-1266	9.6489	Concepcion, Montevista, Comval
14.	G.A. Machineries, Inc.	T-32132	10.1952	Pob., Montevista, Comval
15.	Amelia Mercado	P-3884	8.9678	Linoan, Montevista
16.	Alfonso Barrados	T-22777	15.2575	Mabantao, Kapalong
17.	Apolonio Tagalcud c/o Ricardo Galan	P-22566	20.5771	Mabantao, Kapalong
18.	Tranquilino Uy Buco	T-12884	16.3103	Tagpopongon, Babak
19.	Tristan P. Pojas	T-35017	15.4196	Waterfalls, Panabo
20.	Antonio S. Quiambao	(T-10838) T-4228	12.7538	New Malaya, Panabo
21.	DBP Alexander Aguilar	T-1070	13.5717	Cuambogan, Tagum
22.	ADECOR, Rep. by Alfonso Escandor	(P-1818) P-399	4.8281	Concepcion, Asuncion
23.	Agapito Cruz	T-3463	1.5604	Concepcion, Maco
24.	Aquilino Ramo	T-7245	17.5884	Olaycon, Monkayo
25.	Francisco Salado	T-1371	3.4306	Linoan, Montevista

South Cotabato:

	Name of LO	Title No.	Area (has.)	Location
1.	Sonia Javier	T-27818, Lot 236-C	24.4475	Dajay, Surallah
2.	Carlito Lim	Lot 240, Pls 356	7.7005	Glamang, Polomolok
3.	Emilio Escobillo, Sr.	Lot 230,940 304, 1014, 966, 969, 277-A, P-877, 938, 1040, 221	119.7984	Maltana, Tampakan
	Emilio Escobillo, Sr.	Lot 329,330, 331, 332, 348, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 343, 349, 344, 345, T-6209	163.6465	Lampitak, Tampakan
	Emilio Escobillo, Sr.	Lot 273,281, 282, 283, 280	39.7967	Liberty, Tampakan
	Emilio Escobillo, Jr.	T-3885, P-6875	18.2397	Pula Bato, Tampakan
4.	Restituta Escobillo	P-877	11.1448	Maltana, Tampakan
5.	Antonio Vega Ureta	Lot 938	12.0795	Maltana, Tampakan
6.	Cesar Ureta	P-34381	12.3548	Kipalbig, Tampakan
7.	Beatriz Albesa	T-12932	12.1059	Pob., Tampakan
8.	Aristoteles Yniquez	P6900, P-228363 P-7530, P-25572	47.8422	Kipalbig, Tampakan
9.	Alexis Garcia Santos	T-288881	12.0376	Polonuling, Tupi
10.	Dinna Garcia Santos	T-2887	12.2100	Polonuling, Tupi
11.	Toribio Gabato	P-13449	7.2017	Assumption, Koronadal
12.	Flor Lambagu	P-18132	20.0000	-do-
13.	Francisco Tagafa	Lot 179pt	8.0000	-do-
14.	Lorenzo Advincula	Lot 114pt	7.2904	Caloocan, Koronadal
15.	Cesar Bartocillo	T-24014	10.9935	San Isidro, Koronadal
16.	Concepcion Estaña	P-28680	8.0000	San Jose, Koronadal
17.	Lilia Damicog	P-25427	12.0000	San Jose, Koronadal
18.	Judith Pedrajas	Lot 581	12.3903	San Roque, Koronadal
19.	Lucia Centino	P-50592	7.9484	Sarabia, Koronadal
20.	Dominador Malunasan		13.4050	-do-
21.	Angel Pepingco	Lot 1294	7.0000	-do-

This further notifies the concerned landowners of their right to choose the retained area in accordance with Section 6 of said act, which should be more or less contiguous, and said right shall expire after thirty (30) days from the publication of this notice.

Under Executive Order No. 405, dated June 14, 1990, we shall request the Land Bank of the Philippines to determine the land value of said properties being acquired pursuant to SEction 17 of RA 6657.

Thus any query or protest of their coverage shall be filed in the office within thirty (30) days otherwise we shall pursue with the acquisition and distribution of same pursuant to RA 6657.

(Sgd.) **RODOLFO T. INSON, CESO III**
Regional Director

(PDI--Sept. 3, 2001)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
SBMA Building 255, Barryman Street, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
Tel. Nos. (047) 252-4214/4124/4424/4230/4424 • Fax No. (047)252-4284

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the project described below are invited to apply for Application for Eligibility and to Bid with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Subic Bay Freeport, Olongapo City. Only eligible contractors will be invited to participate in the forthcoming bidding.

A. Name and Location of Project : **CONSTRUCTION OF ENTRANCE CANOPY @ BUILDING 8015, SBIA, Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBFZ)**

B. Project Description/Scope of Works:

Proposed Main Entrance Canopy at Departure drop-off area, eastern most side of Subic Bay International Airport, Building 8015 covering an area approximately 1,065.18 sq.m. The proposed project shall include supply of all supervision, labor, materials and equipment, required for the construction of entrance canopy of Subic Bay International Airport, consisting of removal of existing walkaway skylights, structural support system, erection of concrete in place, structural, architectural and electrical works and other miscellaneous and incidental works.

C. Approved Budget Cost: **Php = 10 MILLION**

D. Required PCAB Registration and Classification/License:

PCAB Principal Qualification and Category
General Building "B"

Kinds of Project and Respective Ranges
Building and Industrial Plant "MA"

E. Cost of forms for Application for Eligibility and to Bid, dates and place of issuance: Php 200.00 (non-refundable);

Issuance date:. September 17 and 18, 2001 only, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Engineering Department, PWTSG, SBMA
Room 223 Building 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ

F. Deadline for submission of Accomplished Application for Eligibility to Bid: October 01, 2001, 5:00 p.m.

Address to:

ATTY. CHITO M. CRUZ
BAC Chairman/Sr. D.A. for Support Services
c/o Engineering Department
Room 222, Building 255 Barryman Road
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

G. Time and date of submission and opening of Bids, Pre-Bid Conference and Site Inspection shall be confirmed in the Notice of Eligibles.

Application for Eligibility and to Bid is open to all contractors with valid PCAB (Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board) Contractors License and Registration. Prospective bidders are required to submit a Letter of Intent and Certified True Copy of the Contractors License upon purchase of the forms for Application for Eligibility and to Bid and shall bring the original copy of the Contractors PCAB License Classification Registration for verification and authentication purposes.

Bid Documents shall be issued only to the eligible contractors duly notified by SBMA in writing upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.

All participants relative to the eligible process, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the latest provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations as Amended.

The SBMA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer it deems most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **CHITO M. CRUZ**
BAC Chairman/Sr. D.A. for Support Services

(PDI – Aug. 28, Sept. 3 & 10, 2001)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites authorized distributors/dealers to pre-qualify and to bid for the Acquisition of Various Equipment for the Use of the Food Development Center (List is available at PBAC Secretariat). The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

September 3-5, 2001 - Issuance of pre-qualification requirements
September 12, 2001 - Deadline of submission of pre-qualification documents
September 18-19, 2001 - Issuance of bid documents
September 21, 2001 (10:00 AM) - Pre-bidding conference
September 28, 2001
(9:15 - 10:00 AM) - Submission of bid proposals
(10:15 AM) - Opening of bid proposals

Pre-qualification forms and requirements can be secured from and submitted to PBAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents and technical specifications may likewise be secured from PBAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of P2,000.00 non-refundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) **EDGAR S. ASUNCION**
Deputy Administrator and Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Aug. 31 & Sept. 3, 2001)

DILG 2000

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION

BFP 2000

LETTER OF INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Pre-qualifications, Bids and Award Committee of the Bureau of Fire Protection is inviting interested bidders who are at least 60% Filipino-owned to prequalify and bid for the supply and delivery of:

WATER TANKER PUMPER (WTP) FIRETRUCK

Bid documents may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P3,000.00 in cash at the Bureau of Fire Protection, Pre-qualifications, Bids and Award Committee, Rm. 604, Union Square Condominium, 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City on **September 11-13, 2001** during office hours from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with telephone No. 911-2129 (Attn. Engr. Arsenio M. Rodriguez, Jr., PBAC Head Secretariat). A Pre-bid Conference will be held on **September 27, 2001**, 2:00 PM at Rm. 101, BFP Conference Room.

The PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their proposals nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **JOSE E. COLLADO**
SR SUPT (DSC) BFP
Chairman, BFP-PBAC

(PDI – Sept. 1, 2 & 3, 2001)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5285

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation invites eligible suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

9-5/8" & 13-3/8" Casing Roller under FGK-10656

This invitation is open to all pre-qualified suppliers of PNOC-Energy Development Corporation. Interested suppliers not pre-qualified with PNOC-Energy Group of Companies as of this invitation are required to submit pre-qualification documents for our future requirements.

Bid documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o Raffy S. Teylan starting **August 23, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security to be issued by the local agent/distributor, if any, with the amount indicated in the tender document, in the form acceptable to PNOC-EDC and must be delivered to the above office on or before 2:00 p.m. of **September 10, 2001**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids will not be accepted.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground for PNOC-EDC's action.

(Sgd.) **S. A. F. Apostol**
Chairman/President/C.E.O.

(PDI--Sept. 3, 2001)

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OBITUARIES

MA. RUBY B. RUSTIA

Peacefully joined our Creator on September 1, 2001 at the age of 36.

Her loving mother **ANTONIA B. RUSTIA**; brothers & sisters **LITO & JOY, BONG & MERCY CARAG, BONG & JOJI JOCSON, DANNY & MARIVIC, GIL & KATHY, REY & JOY, TONY & JING, GARY, ROLAND & CEZ**; nephews & nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Capitol Memorial Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on September 5, 2001, Wednesday at the Baliuag Catholic Cemetery after a 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Sto. Cristo Chapel, Baliuag, Bulacan.

COL. JOSE R. VILLARICO (RET.)

Died in the Grace of our Lord on September 1, 2001 at the age of 71.

His wife **Betty Llagas Pandes Villarico**; children **Ritzi** and **Robee Ronquillo**; **Edwin** and **Beth Villarico**; grandchildren **Dodge**, **Ram** and **Rianne Ronquillo**, and **Shanele Villarico**; and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Parish of the Good Shepherd, Fairview Park, Quezon City until September 3, 2001, and at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, from September 4 to 5, 2001.

Interment will be at 12:00 noon on September 5, 2001, at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord"
2 Corinthians 5:8

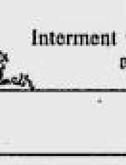
Atty. Nestor M. Tanyag

(June 8, 1929 - August 31, 2001)

His bereaved wife Amy, loving children Nesa, **Trina** and **Jay**, relatives and friends, request your prayers for the repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Premiere II of the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati.

Funeral Mass will be on Monday, September 3, 2001, at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.



Arch. Maximo P. Candelaria, FUAP

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 1, 2001 at the age of 65.

His remains lie in state at 83 Brgy. Bonifacio, San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 5, at San Leonardo Cemetery.

Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28

MORE PEACEFUL THAN SEATTLE

Trade ministers arrive in Mexico to talk trade

MEXICO CITY—Trade ministers from around the world were ushered into a swank Mexico City hotel under tight security on Friday, kicking off a weekend meeting aimed at starting trade talks that stalled in Seattle two years ago.

Riot police confronted a few dozen protesters earlier Friday in front of Mexico's National Auditorium, but no major violence was reported.

Anti-globalization groups have accused the Mexican government of trying to limit access to the meeting by keeping most details secret, but they have promised peaceful protests.

A scattering of protesters gathered outside the hotel, one carrying a sign that says, "Capitalism kills."

Mexican President Vicente Fox has invited representatives from 17 countries, Hong Kong and the European Union to hold informal talks on everything from agricultural subsidies to the environment—a few of the stumbling blocks to a new round of global trade talks.

The last round of trade talks, which finished in 1994, led to the World Trade Organization's creation in 1995.

Ministers tried to launch a new round in 1999 in Seattle, but failed to agree on an agenda amid riots.

They want to avoid another embarrassing impasse before official WTO trade talks in November in Qatar and have been holding a series of informal meetings to try to cobble together a tentative agreement.

Some of the WTO's 142 members argue a new round of trade talks will help stimulate sagging economies, but many developing countries say they have yet to see the benefits of the 1994 agreements.

Poorer nations want greater access to the markets of the industrialized world, and have argued that any new talks should include discussions on anti-dumping rules, which try to block countries from flooding other markets with cheap goods.

Many other countries—especially the European Union, Japan, South Korea, Norway, Switzerland and some developed countries—are trying to maintain agricultural subsidies.

But that effort is opposed by countries that hardly use agricultural subsidies, including Australia, Canada, Brazil and Vietnam. *AP*

HK economic gloom unlikely to lift soon

HONG KONG—Standing amid dilapidated buildings, Wong Chi-moon takes a deep drag on a cigarette then exhales, as if to blow away his melancholy.

Wong, 55, used to earn HK$20,000 ($2,581) per month as a salesman, but since losing his job three years ago he scrapes by on government subsidies equaling about 17 percent of his old salary.

For a few months this year he was homeless; now he rents a bed in a government-subsidized charity home. His dozens of attempts to find work have failed.

"Life is difficult these days," Wong laments. "Even to be a shop assistant, you'll have to be young and know English and computer. The demands are stringent, but the pay is extremely low."

Hong Kong's unemployment rose to 4.7 percent in the three months ending July 31, and although it's well below its peak of 6.3 percent in 1999 and still lower than many nations, the picture is getting gloomier as experts predict Hong Kong will soon be in a recession.

The former British colony has long been a magnet for Chinese who believed they could work hard and get rich here, but there is a growing sense of desperation among many who say they've been left behind by the last recovery and don't know if they'll ever catch up.

Being young and educated doesn't necessarily inspire confidence, either. At City University, 21-year-old law student Paul Yip worries he won't find a job after graduating.

"So many people are degree-holders nowadays, and many companies are laying off staff," Yip said. "It is difficult to compete with other applicants with high qualifications."

Sandy Hui, 29, lost her job as a media group secretary when the company merged two of its magazines.

"It's the second job I lost for the same reason in less than two years," Hui said.

Hui said Hong Kong people need luck as well as hard work to keep their jobs now.

"Whether a job has prospects or not is out of my consideration," Hui said. "I simply need a job so that I won't starve."

Many here say that Hong Kong's feeble recovery from its last recession, brought on by the Asian crisis, looks short-lived.

The government's latest statistics showed economic growth screeching to a halt and private economists believe Hong Kong could soon slip into another recession. Dragged down by falling exports due to a global downturn, particularly in Japan and the United States, the economy shrunk 1.7 percent from the first to second quarters of the year.

Following recent warnings by the territory's political leader, Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa, on worsening unemployment and economic slowdown, the government revised its growth forecast for the year from 3 percent to a mere one percent.

Layoffs in private companies have already affected thousands of workers, and Hong Kong's No. 2 official, Chief Secretary for Administration Donald Tsang, has warned that "fat-trimming" may hit the public sector, too.

That's a bitter prospect for government employees who have traditionally viewed their work as an "iron rice bowl," or jobs for life.

Top officials have acknowledged the skills of local people don't always meet expectations in the globalizing economy. After losing its manufacturing base to mainland China, Hong Kong realizes it needs to work smarter and reinvent itself, but specific solutions have proven elusive.

As factories relocated to the mainland, an influx of Chinese immigrants—who have few qualifications but are willing to work for lower wages—intensified the scramble for manual work in Hong Kong.

Even white collar workers and middle management are feeling the heat of the latest round of economic restructuring with the bursting of the dotcom bubble painful for many.

About half of the people recently surveyed by the government said they feared losing their jobs or not getting enough work. The poll in mid-July had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points.

Nelson Chow, who teaches social work at the University of Hong Kong, forecasts more people will turn to welfare.

Government statistics indicate the number of low-income earners on welfare has risen from 8,345 cases in January to 8,518 in July.

"The fundamental problem is that it is hard for the poor to be self-reliant when they earn so little," Chow said.

Leung Bun, his wife and their three teenagers are struggling to live on approximately HK$10,000 ($1,290) a month—with about 60 percent coming from Leung's unemployment benefits and the rest from his wife's job cleaning schools. Most of the money goes to educating the children.

Leung, 63, worked in printing before his factory moved to mainland China three years ago.

"I want to improve my family's living, too," he said. "But the chance is slim. People won't hire me because I'm too old." *AP*

Companies tempted to mislead investors

JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming—Corporate managers have more reasons to mislead financial markets as stock options become a bigger part of pay, and the quality of information to investors is deteriorating, a study presented to a top-level meeting of central bankers and academics warned on Friday.

Harvard University professor Andrei Shleifer told Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan and other senior policymakers and bankers from around the world that high-technology companies that often have no profits have aggravated the problem.

High stock prices help such new companies make deals and attract employees, Shleifer told those attending a symposium organized by the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank. He added that stricter regulation may be needed to ensure corporate statements are based on sound accounting procedures.

All stock, no profits

"A high current stock price makes it cheaper to pay employees with stock, to raise funds through share issues and to make acquisitions," Shleifer said. "For a number of reasons, the need to maintain a high equity price has been growing with technology-induced changes in financial markets."

The symposium to assess developments in the New Economy was the Kansas City Fed's annual gathering at a rustic Rocky Mountain resort that draws participants from around the world.

Shleifer also warned that a growing number of small investors know less than they think they do because they rely on a flood of investment information—some of it questionable—from sources including television.

"The growing abundance of information available to unsophisticated investors is likely to have created, in their minds, an illusion of knowledge," he said, making them the more susceptible to misleading corporate presentations.

That conclusion was disputed by Federal Reserve Vice Chair Roger Ferguson.

'Period of optimism'

In a response to Shleifer's presentation, Ferguson said the late 1990s were "a period of optimism about the prospects for the US economy" that made people more willing to take on risk after a long period of rising stock prices dating to the 1980s.

"In this environment, many investors—not merely newcomers—purchased stock on the belief that business plans would become reality. The problem was not, for the most part, that new investors came to dominate the market but that many investors' attitudes toward and perception of risk changed markedly," he said.

Ferguson agreed with calls for clearer corporate disclosure and improved investor education but said the Fed had not found evidence that stock owners as a group were becoming less informed. *Reuters*

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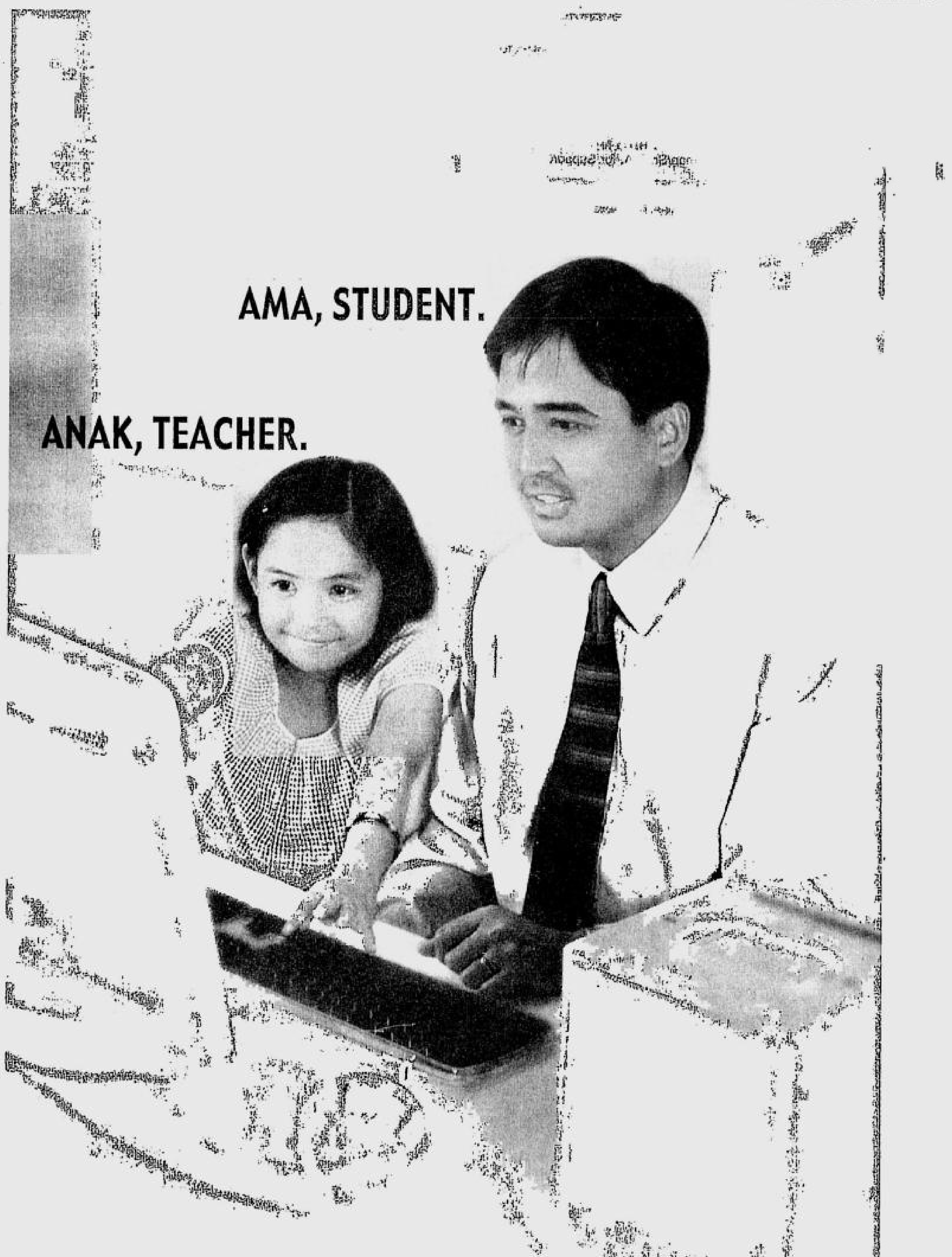
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BOP fell to $797-M deficit in May

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE COUNTRY'S balance of payments—a record of its international transactions and commitments—slipped to a $797-million deficit in the first five months of the year from a surplus of $397 million in the January-May period last year.

These figures suggest that, in the course of its transactions with the rest of the world, the Philippines lost more money than it received.

Creditors and investors use BOP data as a measure of a country's economic health.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura expressed confidence that the country would meet its goal of keeping its BOP deficit below $1 billion by year's end.

"The target is doable," he told reporters. "I don't think the BOP deficit will go beyond ($1 billion) because exports should start improving toward the latter part of the year."

The BSP expects the country's BOP position to recover to a surplus of $1.189 billion next year, $2.191 billion in 2003 and $2.701 billion in 2004.

Data from the central bank showed that a deficit of $3.405 billion in the capital and financial accounts continued to offset a surplus of $1.017 billion in the current account.

Though still recording a surplus, the country's current account position—its earnings from exports against spending on imports—shrank 58.7 percent in the first five months of the year from a $2.464-billion surplus during the same period last year.

These data show that the country has been hit by a slowdown in the US and Japanese economies, its major export markets.

Demand for semiconductors and other electronic goods—the Philippines' major export products—has eased in the United States and Japan following a slowdown in their economies.

Savings banks incur fewer bad loans

THE COUNTRY'S over 100 thrift banks incurred fewer bad loans in May, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Data from the central bank showed that the nonperforming loan ratio in the thrift bank sector slid slightly to 11.94 percent in May from 11.98 percent the previous month.

The loan portfolios of thrift banks shrank by 1.36 percent to P137.89 billion in May, but with fewer bad loans in their portfolios, these banks came up with a stronger performance on a month-on-month basis.

Year-on-year, however, the NPL ratios of thrift banks deteriorated from 11.76 percent in the January-June period last year.

Non-performing loans refer to accounts unpaid for 90 days. A loan is considered past due if it has not been paid after a month.

The central bank said had interbank loans been taken out from their total loan portfolio, thrift banks would have posted a better NPL position of 12.51 percent in May from 12.72 percent in April.

Net of interbank loans, the total loan portfolio of the country's savings banks stood at P131.53 billion as of May.

The industry coverage ratio went up to 48.8 percent in May from 47.9 percent a month ago as loan-loss provisions set aside by thrift banks went up by 0.2 percent, even as their bad-loans ratio dropped by 1.7 percent.

Clarissa S. Batino

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RP economy rides like a Beetle, not a Porsche

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WHEN Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II looked under the hood of the Philippine economy to determine why it has been sputtering through the years, he realized that the country was more akin to the enduring Volkswagen beetle than a Porsche roadster.

Roxas said the Philippine economic engine was not structured for speed (like a Porsche) or growth rates of 8 percent a year but it has proven to be resilient like a VW.

It is in this context that the ex-Wall Street investment banker wants economic managers, local and foreign investors to look at the chronic problems besetting the country—to draw up solutions to these problems and the opportunities that lie ahead.

He says being an "event-rich country" (such as political upheavals, oil crisis, and natural catastrophes), the Philippines has been unable to have a long period of tranquility for the government and private sector to focus on income generation and wealth building.

"These events distract us and served to stunt whatever momentum we had built in preceding years," Roxas says.

For years, Roxas says economic managers have been grappling with operational indicators such as a ballooning budget deficit, limited lending, weak purchasing power and softening exports.

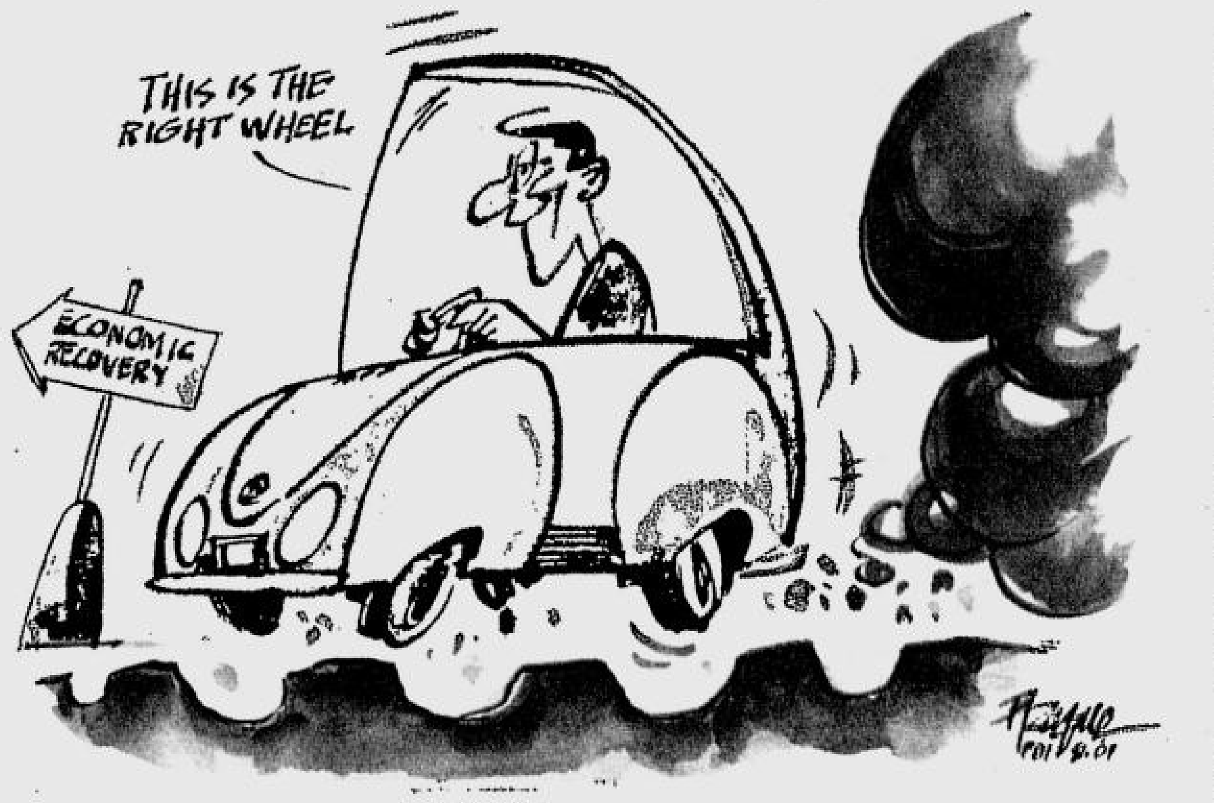
The trade head adds that past economic managers failed to realize that these were driven by structural limitations such as leakage and evasion in the bottom and top level of the tax structure; restrictive credit policies; inflation benchmarks set before the 1997 crisis; and import-driven exports.

"Since our problems are structural, our response should be operational. We should not be tweaking nuts and bolts but we should understand why and what drives these problems," Roxas says.

"We have overlooked these structural causes because we have unrealistic expectations of our potentials," he adds.

One of the key structural defects in the economy is the concentration of too much wealth in too few hands and more than half of the population still dependent on agriculture.

Data provided by the DTI showed that the richest 10 percent of Filipino families account for 39 percent of total income while the poorest 53 percent of Filipino families earn only half or 20 percent of total income.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The DTI said that 53 of the families still depend on agriculture, 37 percent are fixed income workers, and 10 percent are senior management executives.

Based on this data, Roxas, a scion of the old rich Roxas-Araneta family, says that "any kind of industrialization would move the economy forward in the aggregate but would actually worsen the gap between the haves (top 10 percent) and have nots (bottom 53 percent)."

The country's wealth is not only distributed unevenly among families, it is also concentrated heavily in Metro Manila (34 percent of the country's gross domestic product), Southern Luzon (14 percent) and Central Luzon (8 percent).

These extremes in income distribution and generation mirror the wide disparity in the performance of economic sectors—the average income of Ayala Corp. chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala and *Mang* Pandoy, the lending rate for blue chip firms and ordinary firms and individuals.

Roxas says these extremes in the Philippine economy prevent the country from duplicating the high-octane growth rates of developed countries that took the industrialized growth path because of the limited trickle-down effect to vast majority of the population.

"Growth alone will not dissipate the social imbalance and all the money in the world will not necessarily solve our problems," Roxas says

These extremes also tend to distort the traditional macroeconomic indicators that Roxas says have failed to show the true picture of the economy.

While GDP data showed that the service sector has kept the economy afloat despite the political and economic crisis in the past year, this sector was booming mainly due to volume.

Roxas says this poses three natural problems for the economy—we have too much labor and low productivity; there is no incentive for service quality; and we cannot really

RP/ C3

Banker quits at 52; is politics in the offing?

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

HE IS probably one of the youngest bank presidents to retire in the country.

At 52, former Allied Bank president Peter B. Favila, who has sat at the helm of three banks, has opted to quit the industry he worked in for some 30 years.

But Favila says he will remain as a consultant at Allied and says he and taipan Lucio Tan parted in good terms.

Of course the talks outside have taken on so many different versions as to why he retired that it is really difficult to say what is true.

What is certain is Favila has joined House Speaker Jose V. de Venecia as special adviser and consultant on economic and banking affairs of the Office of the Speaker of the House.

His first order of the day is to help campaign for the passage of the Anti-Money Laundering Law.

The Financial Action Task Force, an inter-government agency formed by the Group of Seven industrialized nations, has given the Philippines until Sept. 30 this year to pass the law.

Failure to do so would mean facing sanctions from FATF that could prevent international banks and financial institutions from doing business in the Philippines.

Whether his move to join Congress will eventually lead to a career in politics is an open

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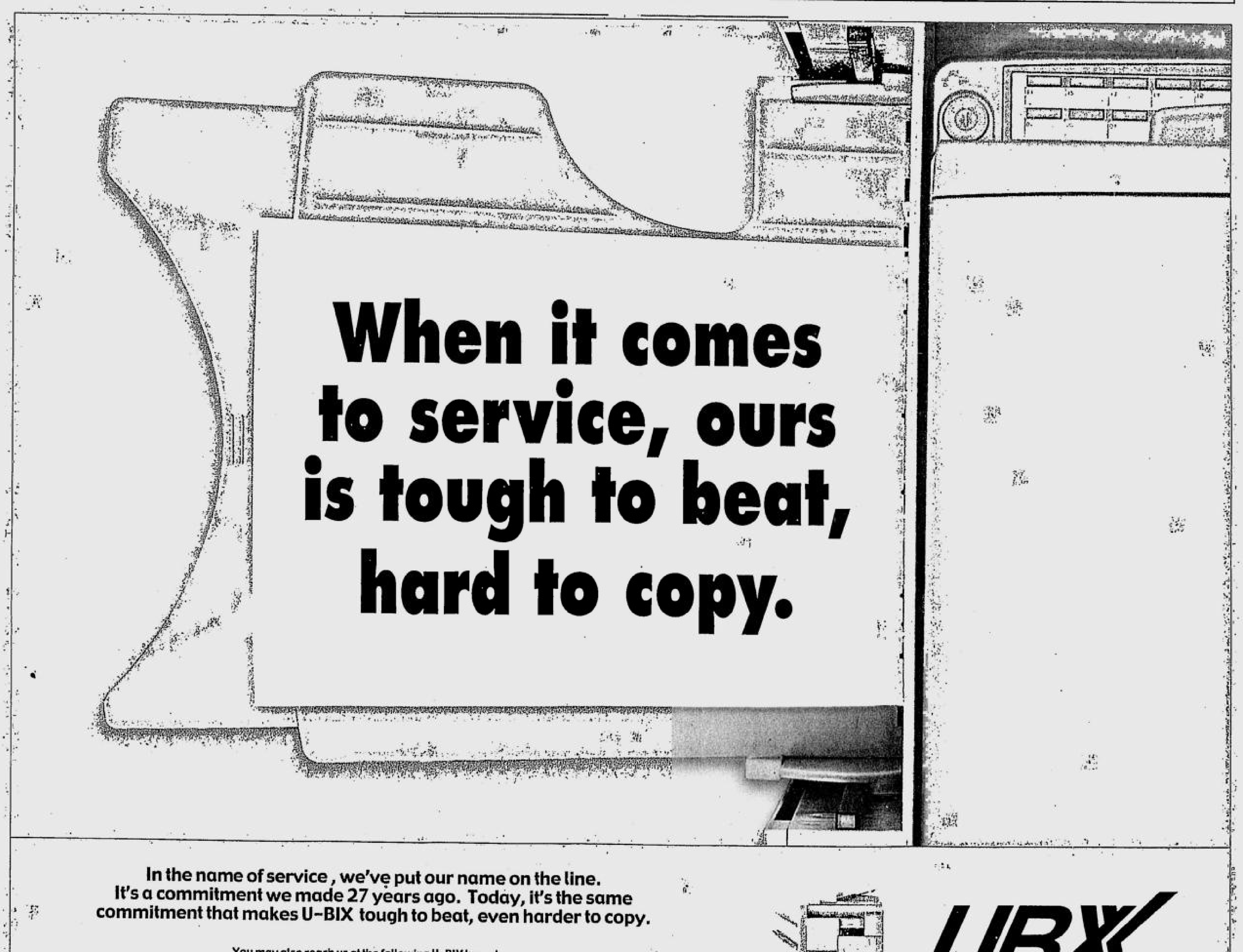

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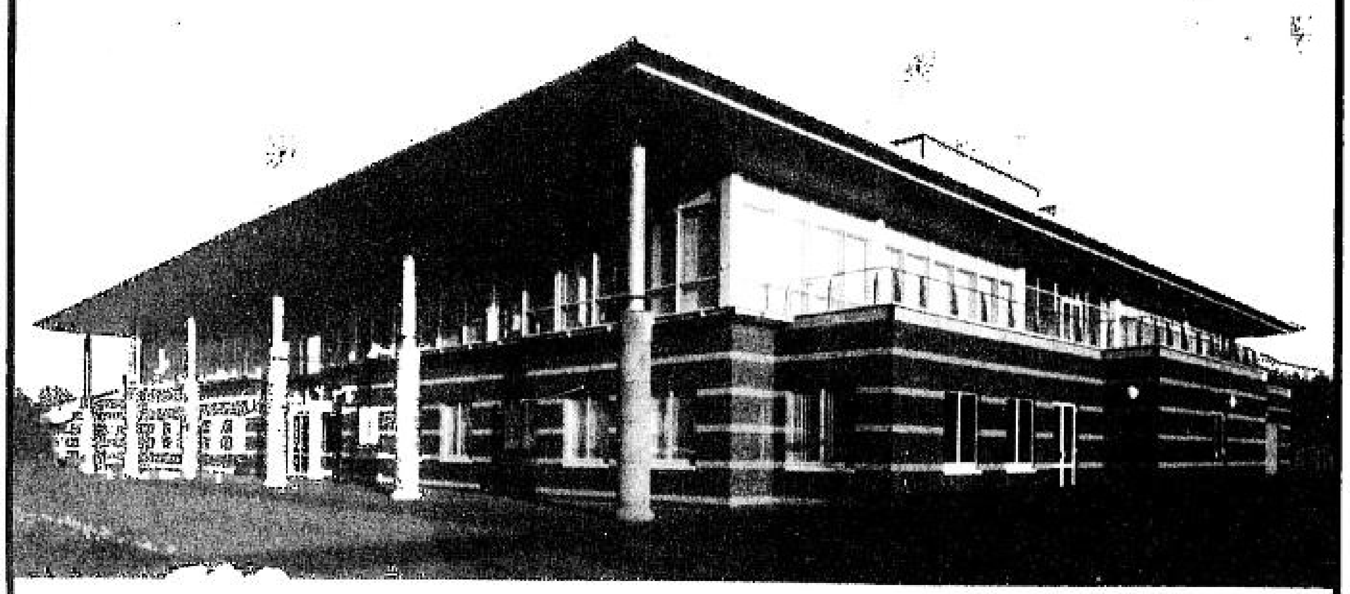

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A simple 'go-to-market' plan

MAPPING THE FUTURE

By Franco G. del Rosario

I WORKED for 12 years in the United States with the IBM company and then started a business in the Philippines.

Many people working for large companies who are thinking about making a similar transition have approached me. They wanted to know how much of their experience would be usable in a small business.

I tell them they should be able to use mostly everything. This has been my own experience except that I had to be cognizant of the Filipino mentality and made some adjustments accordingly.

All companies need a "go-to-market" plan; there are no exceptions. Mine is very basic being in a service business. It can be summarized in four words: "customer satisfaction" and "people management."

This simply means we strive to optimize the business to the clients. To accomplish this, we are constantly working on creating a culture of leadership among our staff. This is designed to ensure the retention of our talented and dynamic people and, the client remains the focus of all our actions.

We give this the same priority as delivering the financial commitments to the corporation.

Customer satisfaction

In very simple terms, there is no difference in the definition of customer satisfaction. Whether the business is large or small, the name of the game is exceeding customer expectation.

For those that desire a longer definition, I offer one that I picked up at IBM: "The satisfaction of a customer who has received defect-free products, services that are clearly superior to anything in the marketplace and has received them on time, every time. It is the result of anticipating and exceeding customer expectations by maintaining a close and cooperative relationship with the customer."

I learned over the past five years that the three most important attributes our clients cite in our "How are we doing?" customer evaluation forms are: reliability, trustworthiness and flexibility. Hence, we have adopted the line "Thou shall promptly keep all promises made!" as the first commandment that our company should follow.

In any business, the quickest path to get the customers' ire is to make or so much as imply a promise and fail to keep it.

Example of flexibility

In most cases, as club shares consultants, we act in a "dual-agency" capacity. This means we will not promote the interest of any one client but we protect the interest of both clients. In fact, we have had repeat clients that we have bought and sold dozens of shares for.

We had to stand our ground on requests we felt would weaken the interest of the other party of the transaction.

It is so much easier to tell a client with a preference for a specific way or kind of documentation that their request is outside the industry practice. Since this is not the answer clients want to hear, we try to accommodate them even if it entails additional work.

Our closest business partners are our clients, employees, clubs and our legal counsel. Our lawyers tell us how a request of a client can be done while keeping both sides equally protected. At the end of the day, clients become more confident with your services when they see that you do not compromise the interest of either party.

People

Even in a small business such as ours we have four departments. However, our goal is to be a cohesive team driven by the client, not by our internal organization.

We have adopted linked business plans and shared measurements among our trading, operations, club relations and finance and administration departments. Every individual and department has the same objective: to be the best in customer satisfaction—NOW!

Doing this accelerates our success in growing our share of the club shares market.

There are basically four steps to be able to assemble a team that will excel in customer satisfaction.

- Work ceaselessly to hire the right people. Since attitude is more telling than experience, we look for people whose personalities predispose them to provide excellent service and that would fit in well with the leadership culture discussed above.
- Train, cross-train and re-train. With training, you have a shot at developing a staff with initiative, a sense of anticipation, urgency and teamwork and for them to have an appreciation for service to internal customers. Cross-training increases the abilities of the staff to solve customer problems on their own. Re-training is basically a refresher course on the leadership culture.
- Reward the staff for their skills in meeting customer needs and growing the business through awards that are regular and meaningful, emotionally and materially.
- Employ a crisp, two-way communication with customer and employees through formal and informal vehicles. It starts with listening and acting promptly, responsively and visibly to the feedback.

Conclusion

In any size business, the CEO or the owner cannot afford to pay mere lip service in espousing the leadership culture. Walking the talk cannot be over-emphasized! Customers and employees can easily detect if the company initiatives do not come from the heart, in which case it becomes an exercise in futility.

(This article reflects the personal views of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and chair of Sharexchange Brokers Inc. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph)

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Unconventional CEO wants people to decide on their own

By Abigail L. Ho

AS president of Systems Technology Institute Inc., a school that specializes in information technology education, Chito Salazar may well be on his way to his dream of "changing the world."

Chito, as he wants people to call him, has not yet lost the idealism of his youth.

MANAGEMENT
STYLES

Only 35, he still has the youthful spunk that he had during his college days at the Ateneo de Manila University.

"I was in college during the tail-end of the Marcos regime and when Edsa I took place," he fondly recalls.

An idealist, Chito was actively involved in campus politics. He was president of the student council as well as founder of a student action group, Tugon.

Don't call me 'sir'

From the very beginning, Chito had already felt he had the "leader's instinct" in him.

"But my dad preferred to call me bossy," he says with a laugh.

Being a leader, however, does not make him think highly of himself. In fact, he does not want his subordinates to call him "sir."

"Please call me 'Chito.' I don't like being called 'sir.' I don't like being formal. I prefer to be casual," he says.

His very casual approach to management makes it easier for his people to relate to him. He does not have any problem with joking with the security guards or any of his staff.

"If I would be allowed to do so, I would wear jeans and a T-shirt to work. I don't even carry a briefcase," he says.

No anonymous letters

Chito says what he finds hard to accept is that he cannot give equal compensation to everyone in his staff.

"I wish I can be as egalitarian in salaries and benefits, but I can't," he laments.

He, however, adds that he is very open with his employees.

"I want to create an open environment. That's why I have an open-door policy. I want to know any question regarding any issue from any employee," he says.

Chito says his employees can either talk directly to him or write him a letter.

"No anonymous letters though. That's my only policy," he said.

His employees are also allowed to make their own decisions as Chito believes too much bureaucracy is a hindrance to an organization's growth.

"I tell my people not to make me a hindrance to decision making. I want my people to make their own decisions and make their own mistakes. I want to establish a flat organization," he says.

Be entrepreneurial

He does this because he believes that many people can be leaders, if given the chance, although a person has to have a certain hunger to be a good one.

CHITO Salazar tells his staff, "Don't make me a hindrance to decision making."

"There are many leaders, but what sets them apart is their hunger to do well, to make an organization excel and to make people do better (in their jobs). I admire leaders who have this hunger," he says.

He encourages his countrymen to strive to be entrepreneurs instead of just being a cog in a machine.

"And entrepreneurship doesn't have to be just in business. One can also be an entrepreneur in other aspects of life by striving to do well in everything," he says.

Unconventional CEO

With views as serious as these, it is easy to label Chito as "boring," but nothing can be farther from the truth.

His subordinates dub him as "the unconventional CEO."

Apart from his casual treatment of employees and his urging his people to just call him by his first name, Chito also enjoys making his people laugh.

"One of my few talents in life is emceeing. I'm a very *kenkoy* emcee," he says.

He says it frustrates him that he cannot play emcee in any STI function because he is the president, so he has to be formal.

"I always just sit there and tell myself, 'I can do a better hosting job.' But they (public relations people) have to protect my reputation," he says with a laugh.

Daughters than sons

Chito spends his free time sleeping, watching television or doing things with his daughters. "If I have free time, that is," he says.

Apart from being president of STI, he also has his own business to take care of.

But he stresses that he always tries to free up his weekends to be able to do things with his daughters.

That will be yet another unconventionality—Chito's preference to have daughters rather than sons.

"I just want daughters. Right off, I wanted my firstborn to be a girl. It's okay if I get a boy, but I prefer a girl. Besides, I don't want another child because that would be overpopulating," he says in jest.

No matter how unconventional he is, Chito is still just a normal person—a normal person with big dreams who has enough fire in him to achieve them.

RP economy . . .

(From page C1)

produce more with service.

For example, in shopping, Roxas says that instead of applying technology to boost the value a person can give to the business, storeowners simply apply more people to solve their problems. This is why a shop has three to four sales persons to attend to a buyer's needs—one to show merchandise, one to ring up sales and one to wrap up the goods.

"The extremes are so far apart that the average does not reflect anything meaningful. Anyone who looks at traditional macro indicators is not looking at the Philippines for what it can really offer. Let's not make these policies on these averages," Roxas says.

"We can rattle off the usual list of economic indicators but these numbers will not explain why we are in stasis," he adds.

He says investors should take advantage of the country's diversity by not looking at total GDP but instead scrutinize each industry or region. In a small economy, he says growth rates are not as important as the issues of distribution and cash flow.

To pull the country out of its boom-bust cycle, Roxas has identified three structural challenges that he hopes to address in the DTI during his term:

- Break Metro Manila's economic monopoly.
- Move economic activity across the countryside.
- Integrate small and medium enterprises into the domestic and global supply chain.

By overhauling the economy and doing away with the "patch-up" jobs of the past, Roxas is hoping that the Philippine economy will finally keep pace if not nose out other speedsters in the region.

Banker quits . . .

(From page C1)

question that Favila neither confirms nor denies.

He brushes aside the question about his political plans but quips, "Many have suggested I go into political mainstream. If you tell me I can be president of this country, why not?

His answer to why retire at 52, is more revealing: "I have been doing line functions for a long, long time. I wanted to do really advisory work—more on policy both in private and public," he says.

Favila comes from Pangasinan and is a nephew of former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Gabriel C. Singson. It was strongly believed that it was Singson who was largely responsible for getting him the presidency of the Philippine National Bank.

By his own admission, he and Singson still talk almost on a daily basis and were recently in the US together.

After Singson retired from the BSP, he put up a consultancy firm and three taipans have hired him—John Gokongwei, Lucio Tan and Alfredo Yuchengco.

Before PNB, Favila was president of the Security Bank. When Joseph Estrada became president, Favila was removed from the bank's presidency.

But a few months after, he was hired by Tan to head Allied.

According to Favila, he was already mulling going into consultancy after PNB. "I have already programmed myself to do consulting after PNB."

But he put his plans on the backburner when he got another offer to be a bank president.

But after three years with the taipan-owned bank, Favila says a lot of his friends in both the government and the private sector have continued to ask for his help on certain project.

"I felt I will be restricted if I had a full time job," he says.

Sounding almost patriotic, Favila adds, "the problems are enormous around us. You have to do more than earn your keep."

FAVILA

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'Decent work' can help region continue recovery

BANGKOK—Amid growing global economic uncertainty involving currency woes, increased joblessness and declining investment, the International Labor Organization opens a four-day conference here Tuesday aimed at shoring up Asia's economies by providing a new element to the development agenda—the quest for "decent work."

In its first regional meeting since the high drama of the Asian financial crisis in 1997—grouping 39 member states—the ILO's government, employer and worker constituents will discuss a plan for ensuring social protection, rights at work and job creation, as a way of applying its global strategy for decent work to the region's people and helping them weather global economic turmoil.

"The goal of ensuring decent work is all the more important in the current economic climate which is cause for increasing concern," said ILO director-general Juan Somavia. "While there are signs of a recovery from the 1997 financial crisis here in the region, new economic uncertainties are emerging worldwide as industrial economics falter, unemployment rises and the benefits of globalization are questioned more loudly in the streets and the boardrooms."

Somavia said promoting decent work could provide the key to reducing poverty, restoring economies and providing a viable and productive response to the challenges of globalization.

In his report to the 13th Asian Regional Meeting of the ILO, which takes place here on August 28-31, Somavia examines developments in the region since the 1997 financial crisis, which exposed the economic and social risks accompanying globalization.

The report outlines the new ILO agenda adopted since then, centering on programs for decent work, which links fundamental principles and rights at work, employment, social protection and social dialogue.

"There has emerged a general recognition among policy-makers in Asian countries that economic progress alone does not result in balanced development," Somavia says in the report.

"Decent work can make the difference," the director general says, adding that the ILO is ready to support efforts by governments, workers and employers regionwide to "develop practical approaches that can build decent work goals into the diverse development patterns of Asia."

"The task at hand now is to determine the status of decent work in the (Asian) region, to identify where decent work benefits exist and why—and move toward reducing them," the ILO report says.

The global deficit in decent work, which the ILO describes as one of the "immense proportions," was discussed at the ILO's annual meeting in Geneva in June.

The decent work deficit is defined as "the absence of sufficient employment opportunities, inadequate social protection, the denial of rights at work and shortcomings in social dialogue."

"This decent work deficit illuminates the gap between the world we work in and the hopes people have for better life," Somavia said.

"Basic rights are an essential part of the decent work agenda, but they cannot be effectively realized if there is no work," Somavia says. "To achieve the primary goal of ensuring that all women and men have opportunities for decent work, in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity, means pursuing full employment."

The ILO estimated that open unemployment last year stood at 160 million worldwide, with underemployment and some 500 million working poor putting the total of those in need of decent work over 1 billion globally.

The report shows wide differences in Asia in respect of fundamental principles and rights at work, employment, social protection and social dialogue.

Programs to reduce decent work deficits will vary from country to country. They will bring together key elements of the ILO agenda—but will reflect specific development priorities and national realities.

The director general highlighted the fact that the Asian financial crisis had acted as a catalyst for the region's development of social dialogue.

"In efforts to cope with the Asian financial crisis, social dialogue involving the tripartite constituents gained new or renewed acceptance," the director general says.

"While the Asian financial crisis wrought economic and social havoc on millions of working people and their families, it also brought awareness of the need for a more participatory approach in addressing social and economic concerns," he adds.

It also triggered a renewed and regionwide discussion on the protection of workers, especially in times of economic downturn.

Somavia called for a "package deal" to enforce the decent work agenda.

"Three agents of change can reduce the decent work agenda," he said. "The first is the state which needs to strengthen its capacity to discharge its responsibility, while working closely with the social partners. The second is public opinion and public awareness of the importance of social change. The third is the international development community that must recognize and promote employment goals and rights at work in global development policies and programs.

The way forward

Decent work brings to the fore the need for policies integrating social and economic concerns for right-based development, employment, social dialogue and social protection.

"At best, very uneven," is the report's description of the situation in the region in respect of freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining. Social dialogue is a key instrument to achieve economic reform and social equity, as well as an effective means of dispute resolution.

Child labor remains a major problem in Asia, the report says, noting that an "unacceptably high number of children still toil under extremely dangerous conditions for meager wages while they should be in school."

However, the report also notes that a considerable number of member-states in Asia has ratified the ILO's Convention on the worst forms of child labor since its adoption in 1999, and that Nepal is among the first countries in the world to adopt a time-bound program for the elimination of these forms of child labor within a specific time frame.

In the area of forced labor, the report notes that "debt bondage and trafficking of human beings (especially women and children) remain important problems in some parts of the region."

Somavia also noted that "there has certainly been progress" in the fight against various forms of discrimination in employment in a number of Asian countries, but much remains to be done, especially regarding discrimination based on gender.

The report calls for work with both training and social protection, particularly unemployment insurance, as integral parts of employment policies. Above all, the report says, "there is a need to give employment a high priority on the national development agenda."

Noting that there is an initial cost associated with building the framework required for decent work, such as providing security of tenure, social protection systems, skills training and safer working conditions, the report says that such developments can also contribute to gains in productivity.

"Decent work has an economic dividend," the director general says.

ILO news

Drug money leads to narco-politics

By Dennis M. Arroyo

DRUG deals are in the news again as warnings fly about narco-politics. The danger is grave but far from local. Here is a primer to give the big picture on the incentives for drug lords.

- Where do illicit drugs in the Philippines come from?

The nearest shipment point is China.

Poppies are grown in the Golden Triangle—Burma, Thailand and Laos—and processed into heroin. This flows to Southeast Asia via southern China. Then China itself supplies much of the ephedrine circulating in the region. that is commonly used in Chinese medicines.

Ephedrine is commonly used in making Chinese medicine but it is also used to produce drugs such as "ice," and its diluted form known here as shabu.

"The flow of heroin from the Golden Triangle is generally eastwards," says Senior Insp. Peter Tarrant of Hong Kong. "Europe is supplied by West Asia, the American supply tends to come from South America and Mexico, the Golden Triangle tends to supply Asia."

- Just how lucrative is the drug trade?

In Colombia, the coca base costs $950 per kilo, according to a 1997 estimate. After processing, it is sold at almost $25,000 per kilo in the United States. The street price of cocaine there is $20 to $90 per gram.

The profits are even more startling in heroin. In Pakistan a kilo of heroin costs around $2,720. But when sold in the United States, the value soars to $129,380.

UN studies say that drug profits are so huge that 3/4 of all drug shipments should be blocked to slash profitability. Present interceptions are feeble: 13 percent of heroin shipments, and 28 percent to 40 percent of cocaine shipments.

- How large is the global trade in illegal drugs?

According to the UN International Drug Control Program, world trade in illicit drugs reaches as high as $400 billion per year, which is comparable to the value of the world's annual textile trade.

- Those are huge sums. Can drug money dominate a nation's economy?

Oh yes. Here's an astounding fact from the US Congress Office of Technology Assessment. In 1993, as much as 98 percent of Bolivia's foreign exchange earnings from the sale of goods and services came from the coca market.

Every year, Colombia repatriates $7 billion in drug profits. That is almost as high as her legitimate exports of $7.6 billion in 1993.

Officials say that drug money has landed in every major bank in Colombia. Revenue from the drug trade has unleashed a construction frenzy, pushing up land prices in the main cities of Bogota, Medellin and Barranquilla.

There's a quote from a report of the US Drug Enforcement Agency regarding the Colombian drug cartels.

"Their influence within the banking industry, government, and law enforcement agencies already has impeded attempts to prosecute them. Through bribery and intimidation, they have altered and reversed undesired policy decisions by the country's government and banking regulators."

- What about corruption arising from the drug trade?

The Trade and Environment Database, Washington estimates that the drug cartels in Colombia spend around $100 million in bribes for government officials.

Joe Toft used to head the US Drug Enforcement Agency in Bogota, Colombia. He said in a live talk show, "I can't think of a single institution in Colombia that I know of, with any judicial, legal or political influence, which does not have problems of penetration by the narcotics traffickers. The Attorney General's office has serious problems. Congress is also very infiltrated by narcotraffickers."

The corruption trickles down to poor communities.

A report funded by the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute said, "drug sales in poor neighborhoods are part of a growing informal economy, which has expanded and innovatively organized in response to the loss of good jobs."

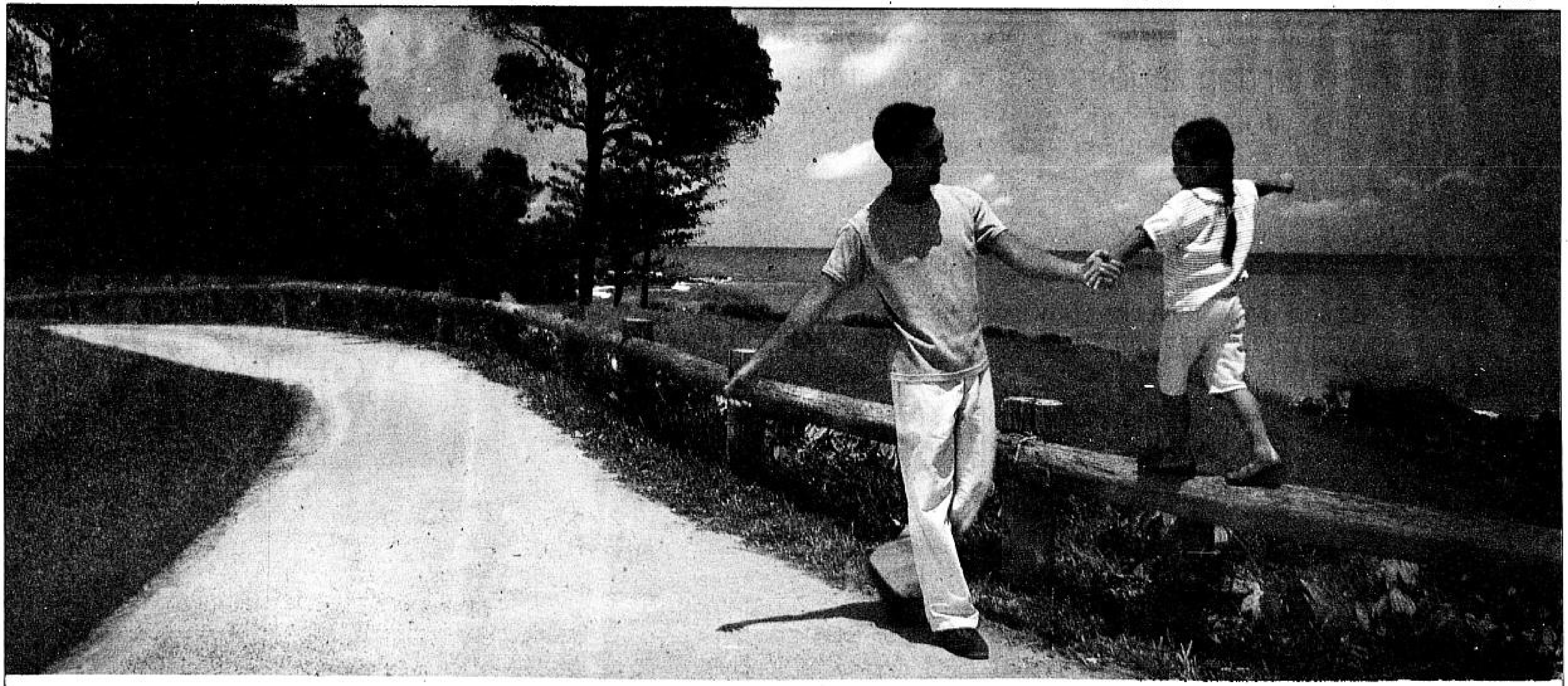
The drug trade was a "fundamentally lower class response (to the information economy) by men and women with little formal education and few formal skills."

- With all those resources, can drug traffickers rule over a nation's politics?

Yes. American narcotics experts call Colombia the world's first narco-democracy, a term the country protests. That is, the drug cartels have gravely warped the economy, politics and general society of the entire nation.

Former Colombian President Misael Pastrana (who ruled in 1974-1978), said El Tiempo

DRUG/ C7



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Electronic payments for the world of uCommerce

THIRSTY? Take a look at your mobile phone—the soda vending machine you're walking by is sending you a menu of what's for sale. Select the item you want, send your choice to the machine, grab your cool drink, and pay for it as part of your phone bill.

That functionality is part of the Bluetooth Mobile Service Link from Accenture Technology Labs, and it demonstrates just one of many electronic payment options either available or in development today.

Secure, user-friendly and cost-effective payment systems have been a key enabler of electronic and mobile commerce for some time now. As part of the bigger uCommerce world, with its continuous stream of communications, content and services, electronic payments are destined to become even more critical.

Right now, payment is painful to many people, as seen in the high abandon rate (about 70 percent) during the typical online purchase attempt today. Why are consumers bailing out? Because they don't yet trust the transaction, they don't like disclosing personal details in what seems like an impersonal medium, and the order process is complex and time-consuming.

Paying for things electronically is still too hard. If the true potential of uCommerce is to be realized, things have to get better.

Electronic payment

From a consumer's point of view, payment options in the virtual world can be compared to their real world equivalents:

Feels like a credit card. Credit card or debit card payments dominate the world of online and mobile shopping today, and that will probably continue for some time. One related option is the "virtual charge," where a consumer opens a virtual account with an approved line of credit.

The actual number is never sent to a merchant during a transaction, and the consumer only needs to submit personal information once.

Feels like a bank transaction. Check simulations and electronic checks are predicted to grow in popularity, accounting for 10 percent of uCommerce transactions by 2003. For both these types of payment, the physical check is never processed, but information from the check is used to complete the transaction.

Feels like a wallet. In fact, these options are called "eWallets" or "ePurses," essentially smart cards that contain consumer information and an amount of money that is then debited from the card each time it's used.

These have been touted for years as the future of electronic payments. Highly successful in Europe, they have yet to catch on in the United States, and several high-profile eWallet launches by prominent financial institutions have recently been abandoned because of inadequate consumer interest.

Feels like mom and dad. Here, instead of a well-meaning parent holding your money for you and making the transaction, consumers use an escrow account to manage it.

Feels like a mobile phone. It is a mobile phone. Consumers make a transaction and then use their mobile phone or ISP account to make the payment,, which shows up on their phone bill.

Who's going to win?

The battle for the trust of consumers and for the profit points of electronic transactions has just begun. The reason: different players wanting a piece of the market for clearing the transaction.

The Accenture Bluetooth Mobile Services Link demonstrates two of the keys to winning the electronic payment competition:

1. Usability: First, it's easy and intuitive to make a transaction. Amazon.com's patented "One-click" functionality for making a purchase is another example of taking the usability issue very seriously.

2. Support for Micropayments: A potentially troublesome aspect of the electronic payment world is the very small purchase, or "micropayment." Today, most electronic transaction amounts are high enough that a traditional credit card approach works just fine for everyone.

But consider a world where we're purchasing a page of content on the Web (yes, someday we're going to have to pay for much of that material we now enjoy for free). No traditional credit card company is going to want to cover the two-cent payment for a page of content since the cost of processing the transaction will easily exceed the percentage of the revenue generated for them.

Or consider the world of Silent Commerce, where objects are sending information to businesses, consumers and each other. The ability to bill for small bursts of data will be critical and something that companies need to address urgently if they are to survive in the uCommerce world.

The challenge on the road ahead is resolving the complex issues of who can most efficiently provide the payment and settlement services, who can most cost-effectively charge whom for what and who can design the billing systems for dynamic, location-based pricing that consumers will trust and use.

MOVEMENTS

Allied bares new appointments

ALLIED Bank has elected Panfilo O. Domingo and lawyer Reynaldo A. Maclang as chairman and president, respectively.

Domingo replaced Willy S. Co who resigned from the post of chairman and has subsequently been elected vice chairman. Meanwhile, Maclang took over the position vacated by Peter B. Favila whose application for retirement was accepted by the board in its Aug. 15 meeting.

The changes are still subject to the approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Domingo is currently the chairman and CEO of the University of the East and executive director of the Tan Yan Kee Foundation.

Previous to this, Maclang was president of Allied Savings Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of Allied Bank. He was also the executive vice president for Allied Bank's Retail Banking Group.

Under the new leadership, significant innovations are expected to be introduced to enable Allied Bank to further enhance its position in the banking industry.

Equitable's new treasurer

JUAT

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, one of the country's largest banks, recently appointed Bienvenido M. Juat Jr. as executive vice president and group head of treasury to strengthen its management team and reinforce its leadership in major busniess lines.

With 26 years of banking experience, Juat has gained a wealth of expertise in treasury and risk management. Before joining the bank, he was EVP-treasurer at Dao Heng Bank Inc. and head of the transaction banking group of Banco de Oro.

He was also previously connected with the Bank of the Philippine Islands as VP-treasury group. He spearheaded the development of the risk management manual of the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

Juat holds an AB Economics degree from the Ateneo de Manila University and finished his MBA academics at the Ateneo de Manila Graduate School of Business.

Shangri-La appointments

SANTOS

DE LA CRUZ

MAKATI Shangri-La, one of Manila's premier deluxe hotel, announces new appointments for key positions.

Merce Santos is area director of human resources for the Shangri-La Philippine Properties as well as director of human resources for Makati Shangri-La. Santos is responsible for overseeing the human resource functions of all Philippine Properties namely Edsa Shangri-La, Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort Cebu and Traders Hotel Manila.

Santos has extensive experience in human resources, notably in labor relations, organizational development and change management.

Marc de la Cruz, on the other hand, is the new communications manager of Makati Shangri-La. De la Cruz earned his Communication Arts degree at the De La Salle University which enabled him to pursue work opportunities in various fields such as broadcasting and advertising before joining the hotel industry in 1996.

As communications manager, De la Cruz is in charge of media relations, the preparation of various internal and marketing collaterals and special events.

Drug money . . .

(From page C6)

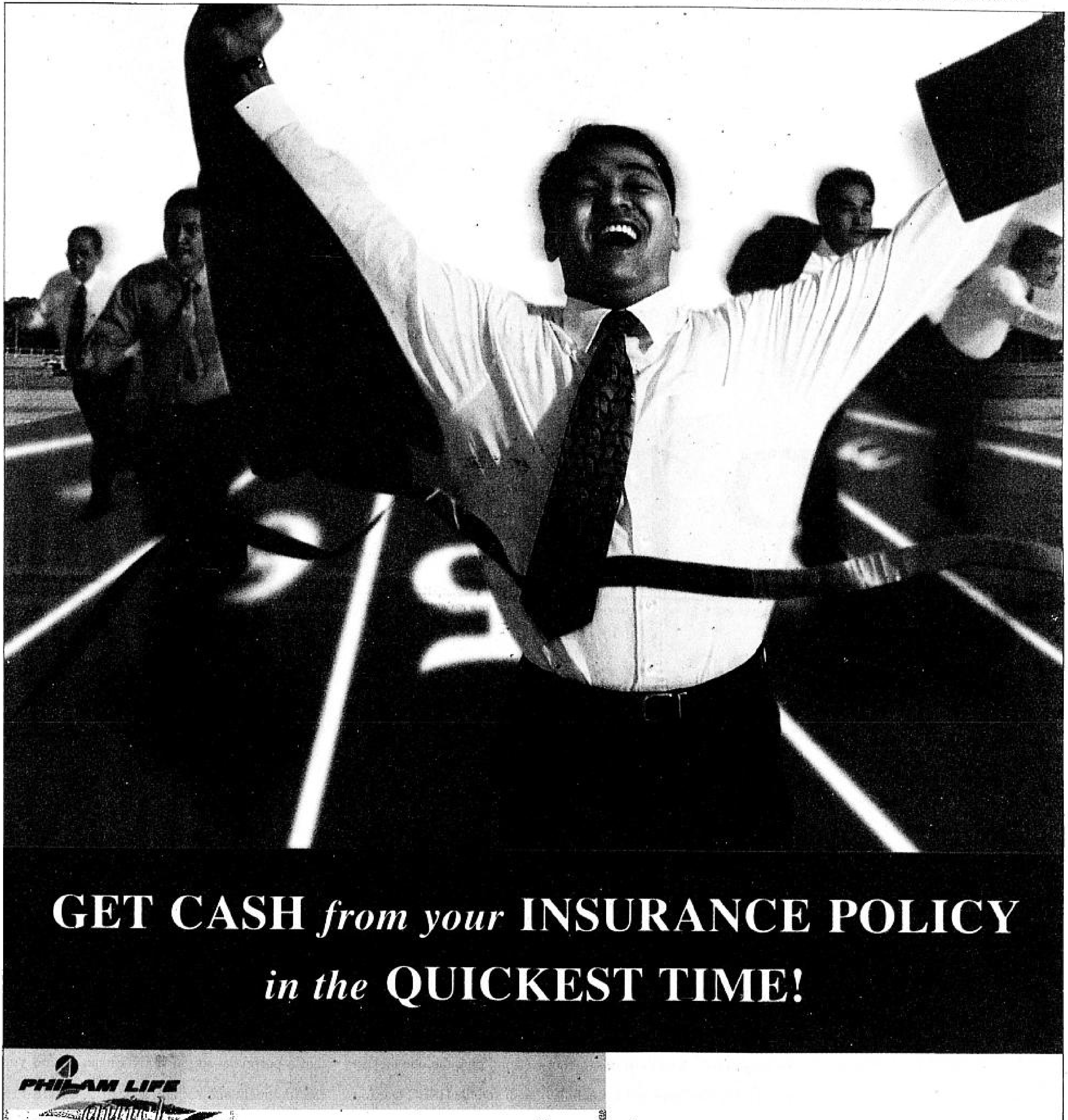
(Bogota's leading daily newspaper), talks about 'narco-project.' People talk about 'narco-crimes,' they talk about 'narco-money,' and if you add that up, logically it implies general contamination."

John Sweeney, political analyst of the Heritage Foundation, writes that the drug cartels "have been financing election campaigns for many years, and at least three Colombian presidents have knowingly taken money from drug traffickers."

- Can drug money shape politics in the Philippines?

Yes, and there's a grave new problem. In her April 23 Chinatown speech, President Macapagal noted rotten alliances. Global drug cartels have joined forces with shady Filipinos to make Manila an important transshipment point.

"They corrupted our police, our criminal justice system and even the higher levels of government. With the amount of money in their control, it is conceivable that they can even dictate the results of the elections," she added.



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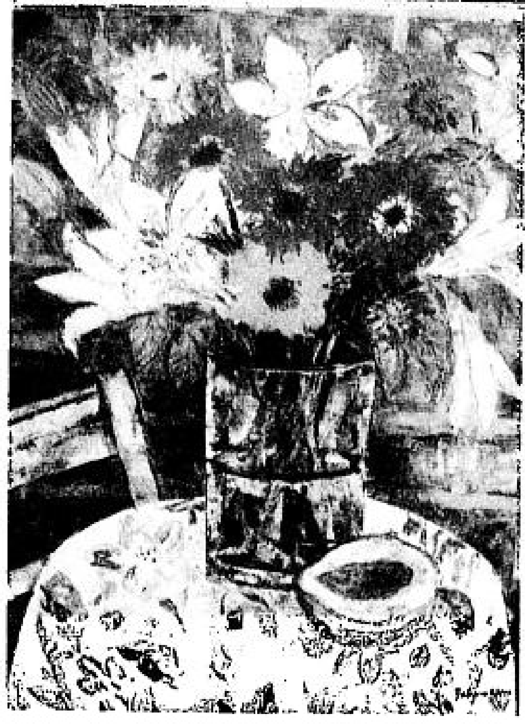

STILL life, oil on canvas, by Fatima Antonio

Flower power on canvas

Story on page D4

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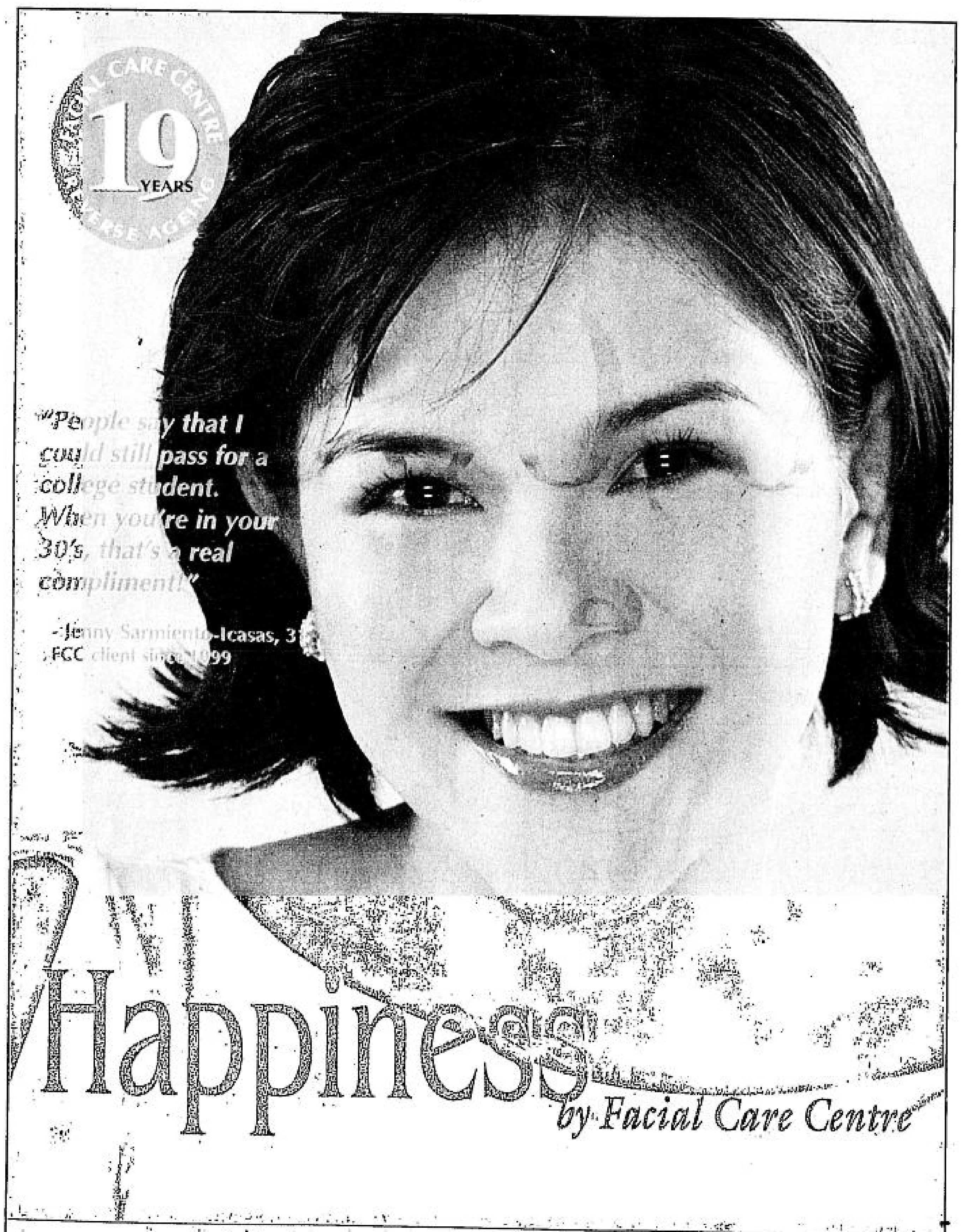
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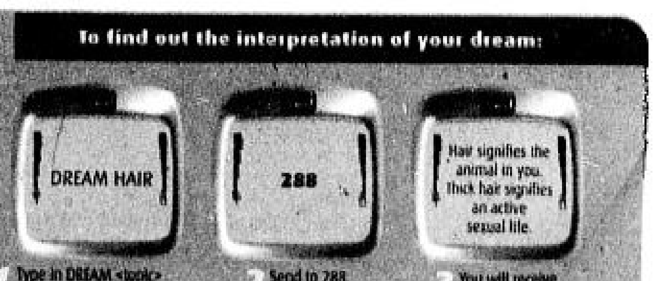
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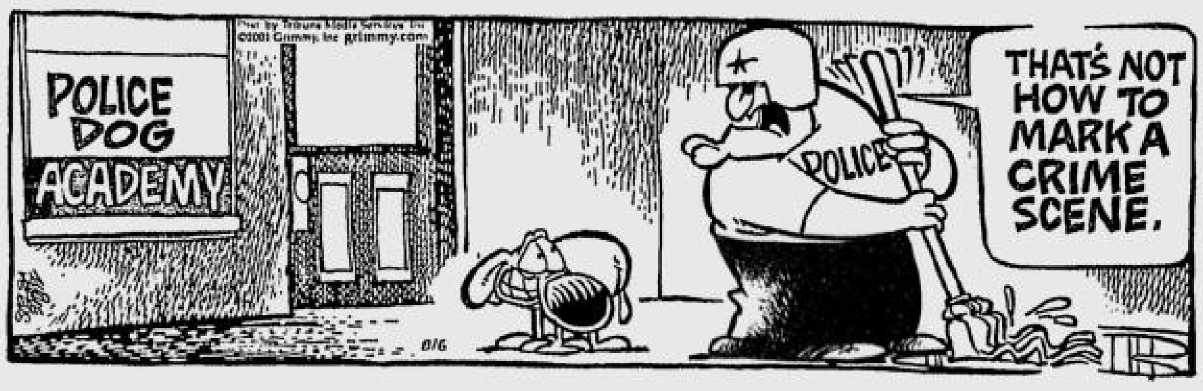
BY MIKE PETERS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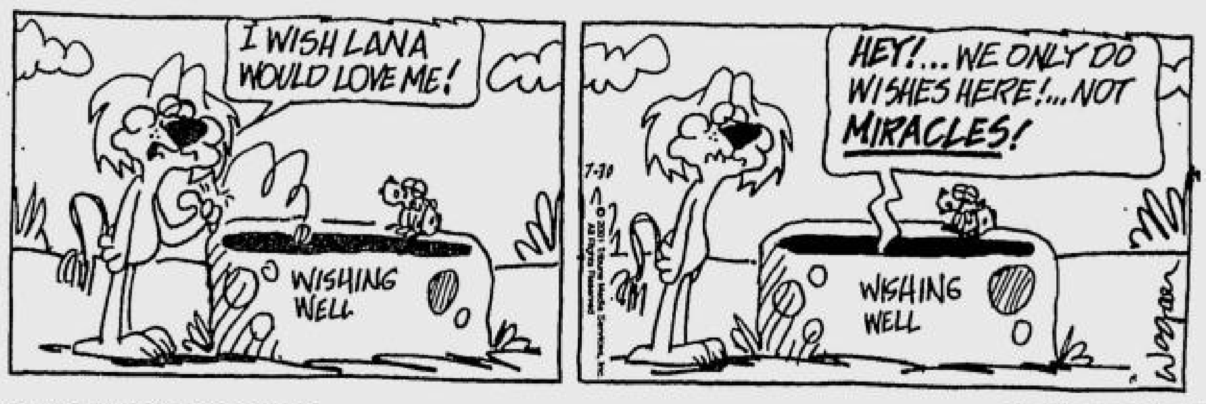
POLICE DOG ACADEMY
POLICE
THAT'S NOT HOW TO MARK A CRIME SCENE.
8/6

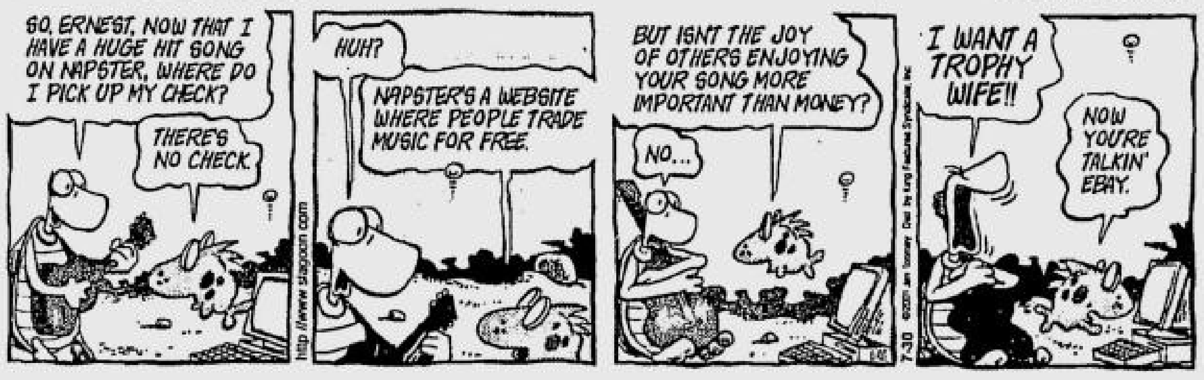
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I WISH LANA WOULD LOVE ME!
WISHING WELL
HEY!... WE ONLY DO WISHES HERE!... NOT MIRACLES!
WISHING WELL
7-30
Wagner

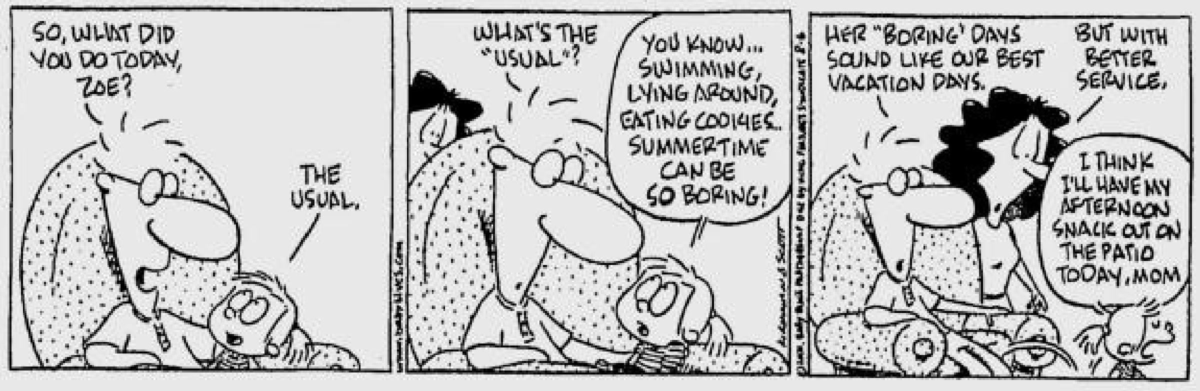
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SO, ERNEST, NOW THAT I HAVE A HUGE HIT SONG ON NAPSTER, WHERE DO I PICK UP MY CHECK?
THERE'S NO CHECK.
http://www.slagoon.com
HUH?
NAPSTER'S A WEBSITE WHERE PEOPLE TRADE MUSIC FOR FREE.
BUT ISN'T THE JOY OF OTHERS ENJOYING YOUR SONG MORE IMPORTANT THAN MONEY?
NO...
7-30
I WANT A TROPHY WIFE!!
NOW YOU'RE TALKIN' EBAY.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SO, WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY, ZOE?
THE USUAL.
WHAT'S THE "USUAL"?
YOU KNOW... SWIMMING, LYING AROUND, EATING COOKIES. SUMMERTIME CAN BE SO BORING!
HER "BORING" DAYS SOUND LIKE OUR BEST VACATION DAYS.
BUT WITH BETTER SERVICE.
I THINK I'LL HAVE MY AFTERNOON SNACK OUT ON THE PATIO TODAY, MOM

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

TCELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Eileen Brennan, Valerie Perrine, Charlie Sheen, Mort Walker, Al Jardine

Happy Birthday: You will always be a giver, but take the time this year to follow your own dreams. Use your excellent memory to pull in all the favors owing to you. Be prepared to say no. It's time to be a bit selfish in order to satisfy your own needs. Your numbers: 9, 13, 16, 24, 36, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't become involved in other people's personal problems. You will ruin your own reputation if you indulge in gossip. Avoid intimate relationships with co-workers or employers.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your best efforts will come through partnerships. You can come up with creative and original ideas for fund-raising functions. Listen to advice from those you respect.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone you love may be out of sorts today. Try hard to understand the problems and help find solutions. Mood swings are evident if you don't keep busy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Romance is in your corner. Opportunities for exciting connections will take place if you get involved in hobbies or forms of entertainment such as clubs that offer cards, fitness and sports.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make beneficial changes to your living arrangements that everyone will appreciate. Don't do all the work yourself. Enlist help.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Social activities will lead to romance. This is a wonderful day to pamper yourself. You will want to look your best. Children may play an intrinsic part.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't be too sure that co-workers are on your side. What they say and what they do appear to be far from the same. Someone may be trying to steal your thunder. Keep your plans to yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your plans to make physical changes will lead to mental changes as well. Your self-esteem can be raised. Good friends will provide honest answers.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone you live with will be bouncing off walls. Make arrangements to do things with friends and miss the chaos at home.

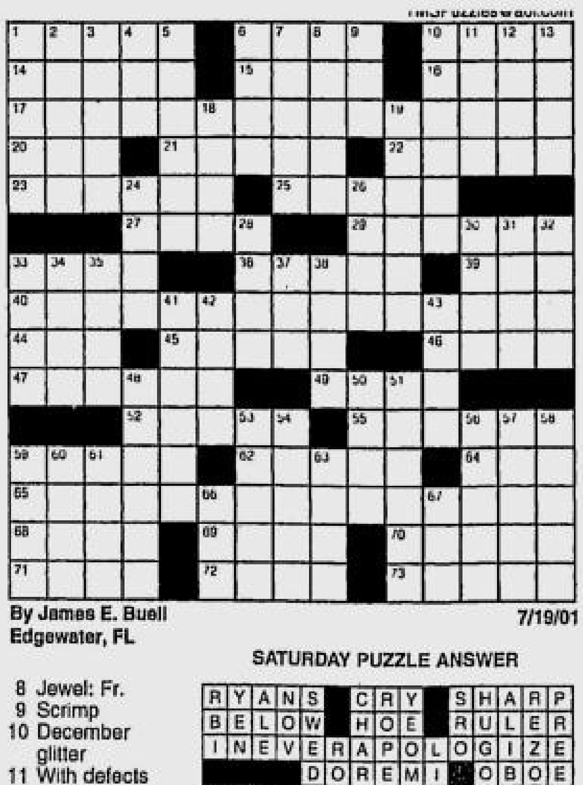
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your energy is high and your capacity for love unlimited. Get out and participate in activities that will enhance your looks and attract exciting partners. You need to plan an adventurous vacation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be secretive about how much money you actually make. Look into investments that are long-term and secure. Property can be bought and sold if you are quick to jump at opportunities.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotional blackmail will work if your partner is guilty of something to begin with. It is wise to put your efforts into making yourself irresistible instead of causing a fuss.

Birthday Baby: You are so charming. The manner in which you relate to others will always help you succeed. You were born with a natural ability to please yourself and those around you.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

7/19/01

ACROSS
1 Helen's abductor
6 Movie pig
10 Roosevelt follower
14 Muscat native
15 Actor Estrada
16 Capri or Man
17 Yarn makers of old
20 Plumbing joint
21 Toy instrument
22 Selling point
23 Method
25 Sudden rush
27 Spheres
29 Teton Sioux tribe
33 Parodied
36 Coaching great Rockne
39 Debtor's letters
40 Type of charge account
44 __ we there yet?
45 Chart stand
46 Mexican coin
47 Explodes
49 Himalayan legend
52 Unifying idea
55 Titillate
59 Pacific island group
62 Like a lot
64 Bolt holder
65 Dancing fakir
68 First-rate
69 Byway
70 Social peer group
71 Automatic advances at Wimbledon
72 Goofs up
73 __ chloride (refrigerant)

DOWN
1 Sits for a portrait
2 Sufficiently
3 Train tracks
4 Quaint quarters
5 Trick pitch
6 Mercedes-__
7 Rival of Sparta and Athens
8 Jewel: Fr.
9 Scrimp
10 December glitter
11 With defects and all
12 Take flight
13 Try out
18 Relative of an anapest
19 Pest
24 Fuss
26 Campus org.
28 Hits the slopes
30 Assistant
31 Superman's sweetie
32 Mobile starter?
33 Part of U.A.E.
34 Center of the Inca empire
35 At any time
37 Compass dir.
38 Unattractive
41 Fatal
42 Bouquet holder
43 Larger-than-life
48 Retail establishments
50 Raison d'__
51 Fencing position
53 Estate house
54 Ventriloquist Bergen
56 Potato-filled turnover
57 Full of vigor
58 Mrs. Mertz
59 Cotton-tipped cleaner
60 Nautical call
61 Planted explosive
63 Probabilities
66 Intense anger
67 Industrial container

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

R	Y	A	N	S	■	C	R	Y	■	S	H	A	R	P
B	E	L	O	W	■	H	O	E	■	R	U	L	E	R
I	N	E	V	E	R	A	P	O	L	O	G	I	Z	E
■	■	■	■	D	O	R	E	M	I	■	O	B	O	E
H	I	N	T	E	D	■	■	E	G	G	■	I	N	N
O	D	O	R	S	■	H	E	N	H	O	U	S	E	S
P	E	R	I	■	T	U	G	■	T	A	N	■	■	■
I	A	M	S	O	R	R	Y	B	U	T	T	H	A	T
■	■	■	T	A	U	■	P	E	P	■	R	U	N	E
M	C	D	E	R	M	O	T	T	■	P	U	N	T	S
A	R	E	■	S	P	Y	■	■	S	I	E	G	E	S
R	U	E	S	■	E	S	T	H	E	R	■	■	■	■
I	S	J	U	S	T	T	H	E	W	A	Y	I	A	M
S	T	A	R	E	■	E	A	R	■	T	A	N	G	O
A	S	Y	E	T	■	R	I	D	■	E	M	C	E	E

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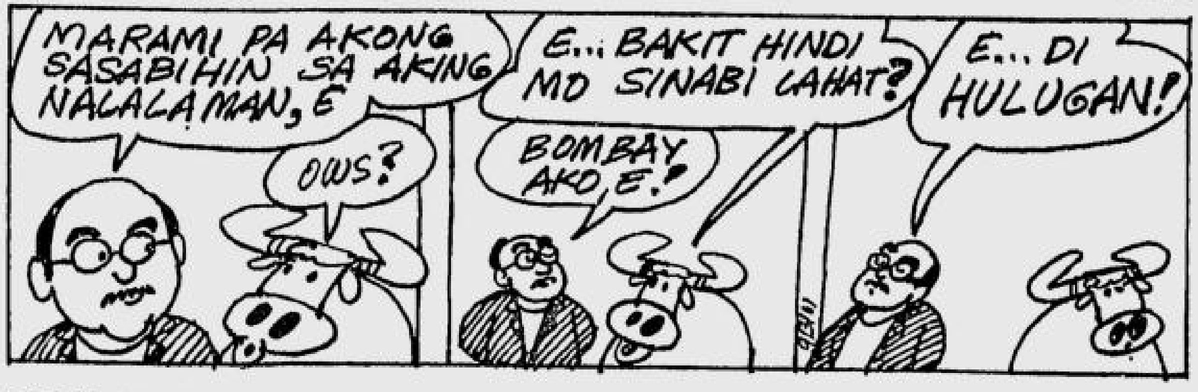
7/19/01

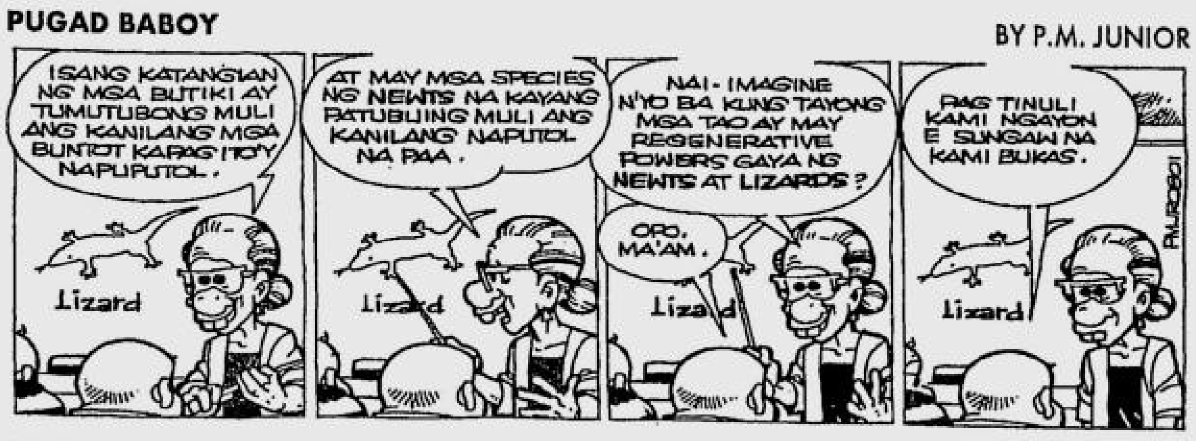
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MARAMI PA AKONG SASABIHIN SA AKING NALALAMAN, E
OWS?
E... BAKIT HINDI MO SINABI LAHAT?
BOMBAY AKO, E.!
E... DI HULUGAN!

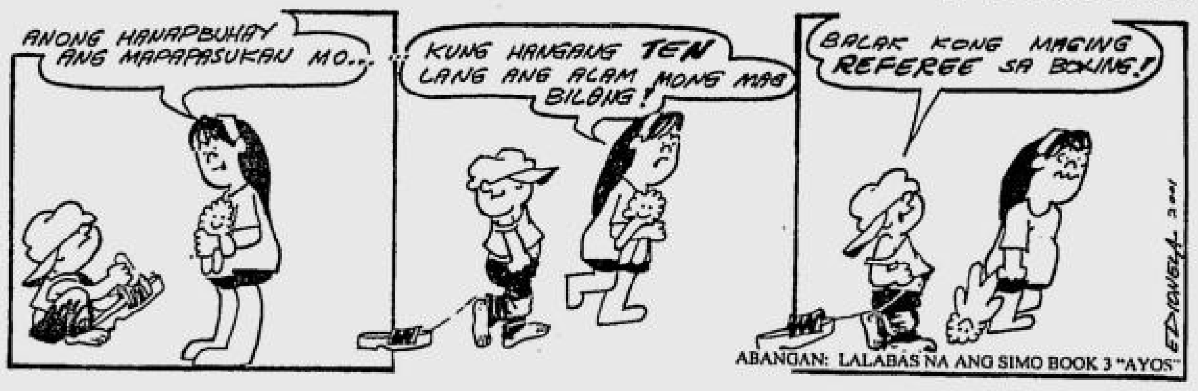
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ISANG KATANGIAN NG MGA BUTIKI AY TUMUTUBONG MULI ANG KANILANG MGA BUNTOT KAPAG ITO'Y NAPUPUTOL.
Lizard
AT MAY MGA SPECIES NG NEWTS NA KAYANG PATUBUING MULI ANG KANILANG NAPUTOL NA PAA.
Lizard
NAI-IMAGINE N'YO BA KUNG TAYONG MGA TAO AY MAY REGENERATIVE POWERS GAYA NG NEWTS AT LIZARDS?
OPO, MA'AM.
Lizard
PAG TINULI KAMI NGAYON E SUNGAW NA KAMI BUKAS.
Lizard
PJUROBOI

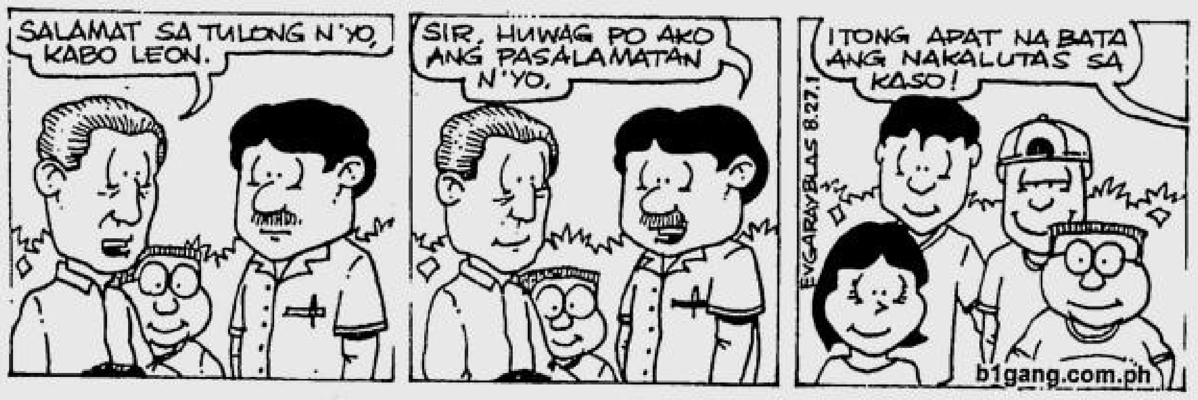
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANONG HANAPBUHAY ANG MAPAPASUKAN MO...
KUNG HANGANG TEN LANG ANG ALAM MONG MAG BILANG!
BALAK KONG MAGING REFEREE SA BOXING!
EDIONELA 2001
ABANGAN: LALABAS NA ANG SIMO BOOK 3 "AYOS"

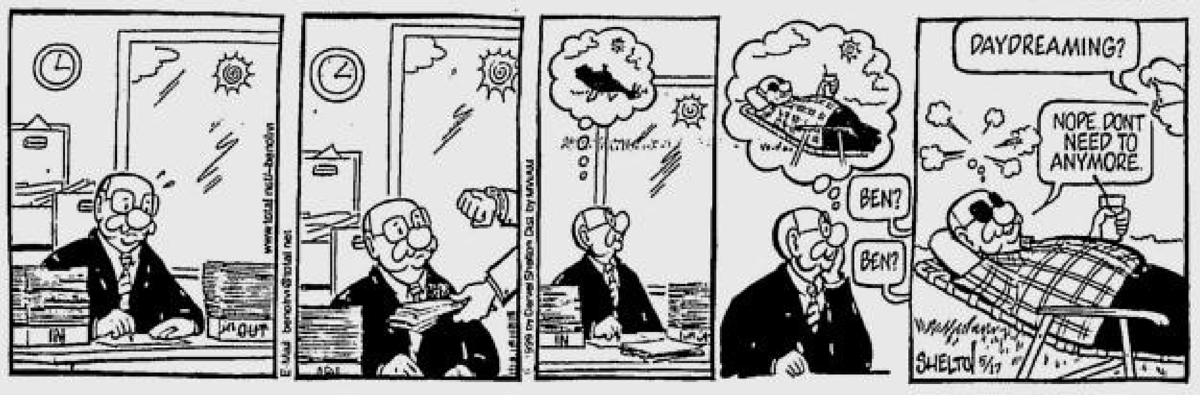
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SALAMAT SA TULONG N'YO, KABO LEON.
SIR, HUWAG PO AKO ANG PASALAMATAN N'YO.
ITONG APAT NA BATA ANG NAKALUTAS SA KASO!
EVGARAYBLAS 8.27.1
b1gang.com.ph

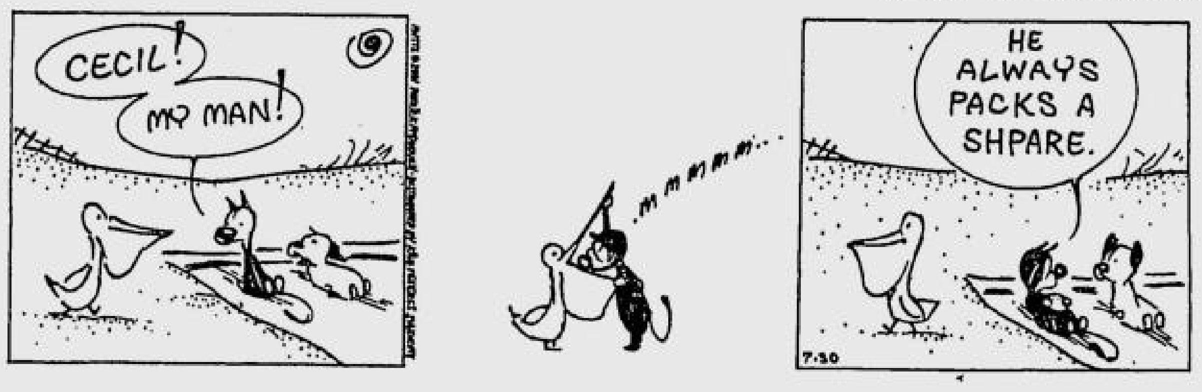
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


IN
OUT
BEN?
BEN?
DAYDREAMING?
NOPE. DON'T NEED TO ANYMORE.
SHELTON 5/17

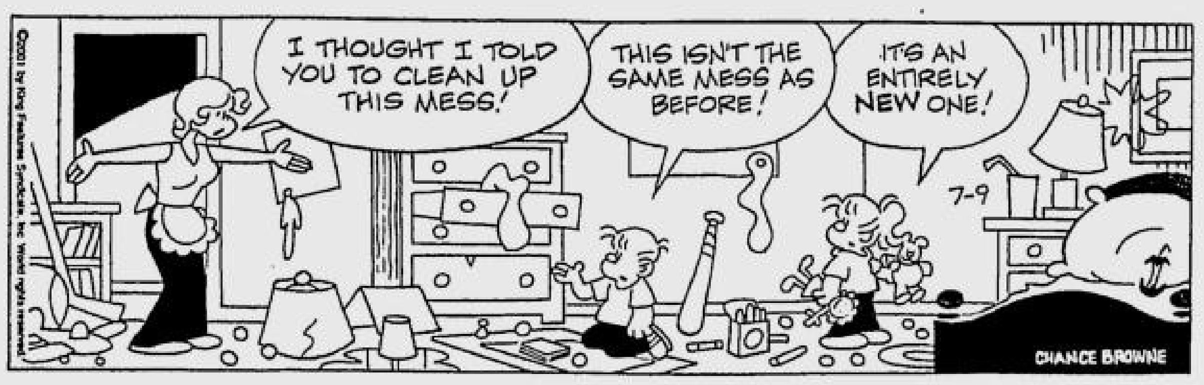
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


CECIL!
MY MAN!
M M M M M...
HE ALWAYS PACKS A SHPARE.
7-30

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER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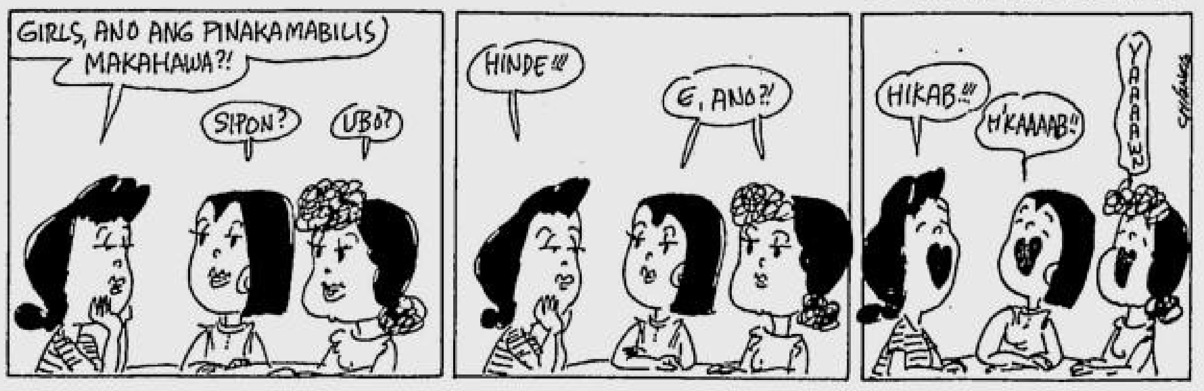
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO CLEAN UP THIS MESS!
THIS ISN'T THE SAME MESS AS BEFORE!
IT'S AN ENTIRELY NEW ONE!
7-9
CHANCE BROWNE

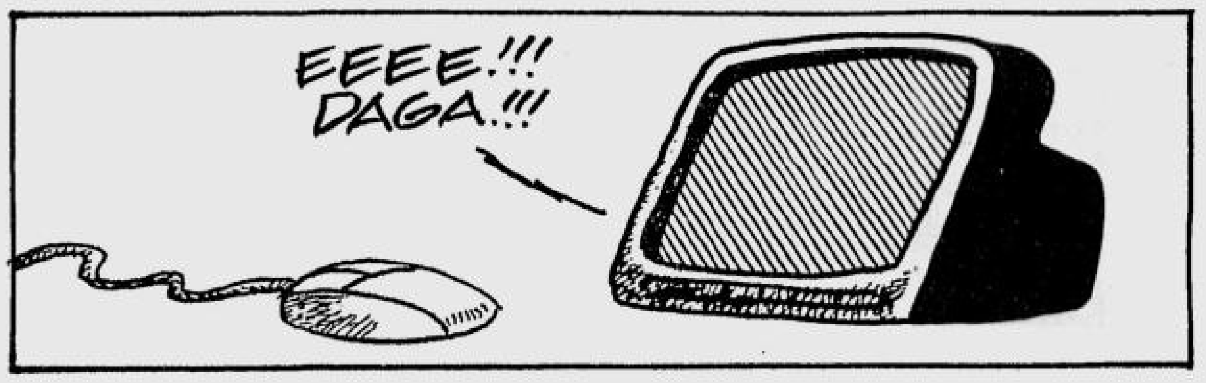
LOVEKNOTS

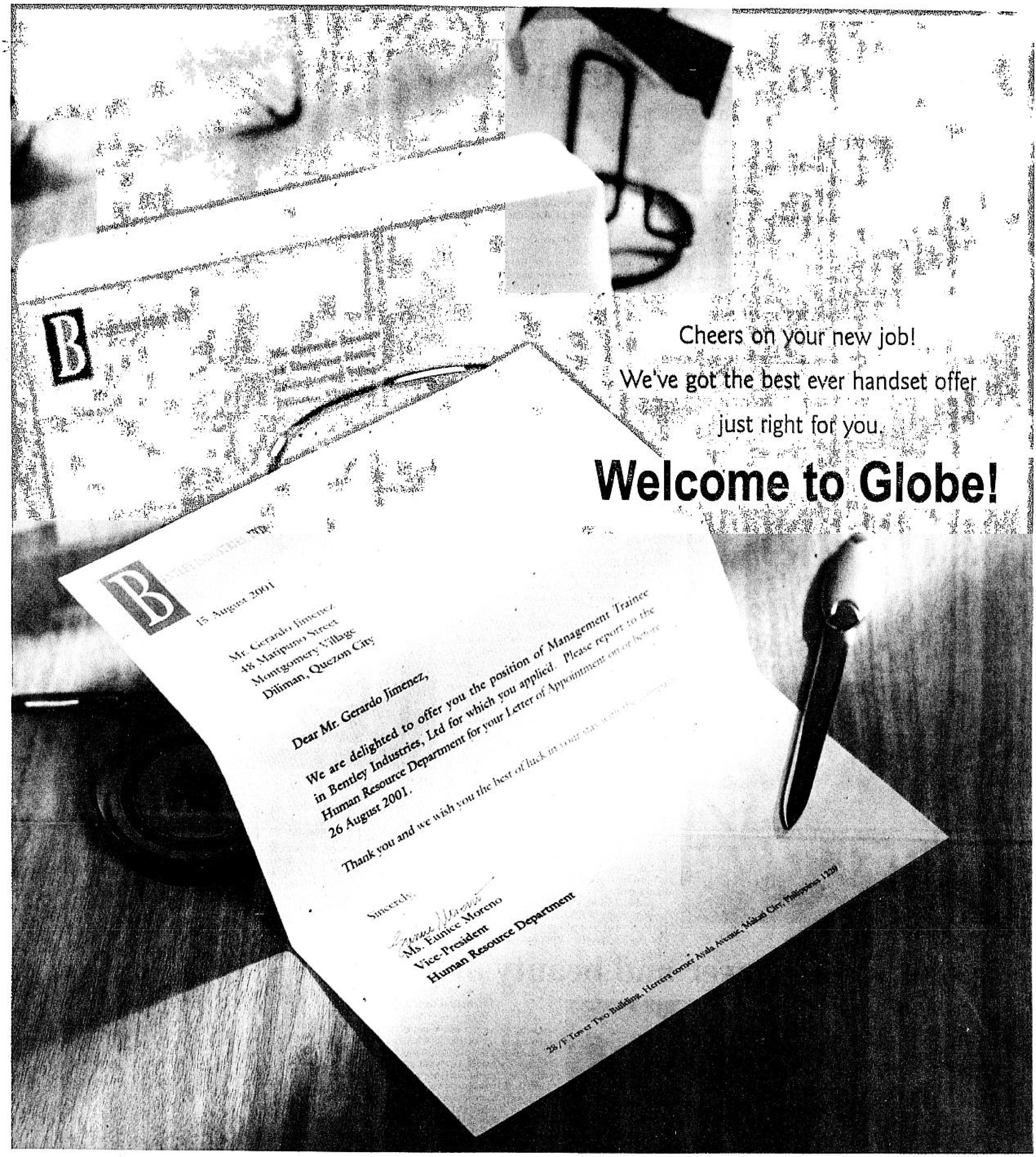
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


GIRLS, ANO ANG PINAKAMABILIS MAKAHAWA?!
SIPON?
UBO?
HINDE!!!
E, ANO?!
HIKAB!!!
H'KAAAAB!!
YAAAAWN

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING





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15 August 2001

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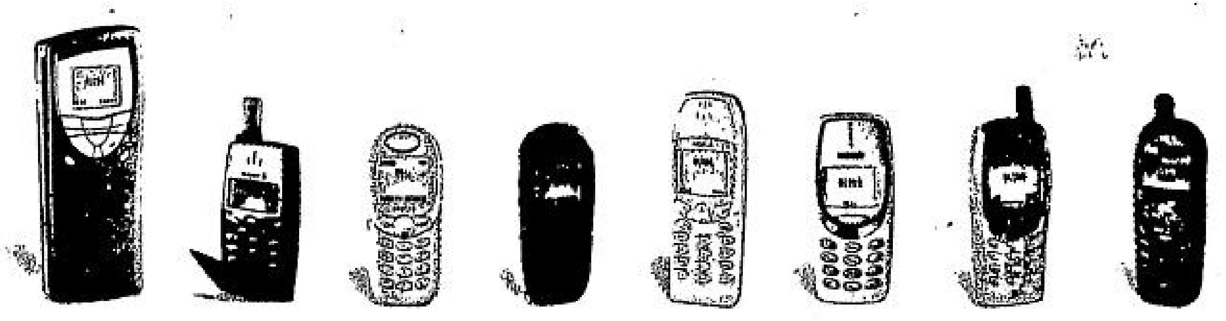
Sincerely,

Ms. Eunice Moreno
Vice-President
Human Resource Department

28/F Tower Two Building, Herrera corner Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines 1229



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Business P1,331/mo.	37,000	14,000	12,000	12,000	10,500	7,000	4,100	2,500
Executive P1,997/mo.	36,000	13,000	11,000	11,000	9,500	6,000	3,100	1,500
CEO P2,662/mo.	35,000	12,000	10,000	10,000	8,500	5,000	2,100	500
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Flower power on canvas

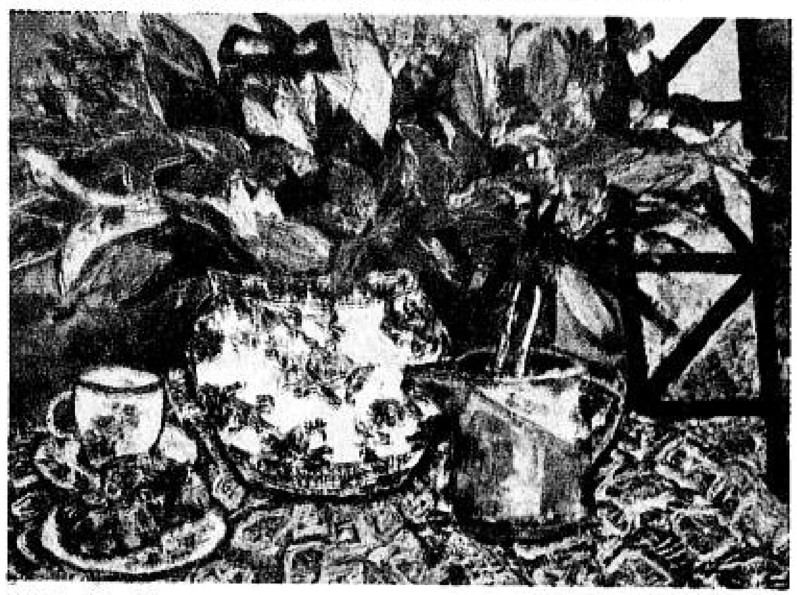
Baby-faced, soft-spoken and unassumingly charming, 30-year-old Fatima Antonio may well be the flower girl of Philippine art

By Johnathan Libarios Rondina

"THE FLOWER," wrote the French playwright Jean Giraudoux, "is the poetry of seduction, an example of the eternal seductiveness of life." Indeed, none other evokes as wide an array of powerful emotions as flowers do, from the nausea of love and romance to the often inexplicable profundities of life's joys and pleasures.

"Flowers are simply beautiful," says artist Fatima Antonio. Fatima knows whereof she speaks, or whereof she paints. Flowers, after all, take center stage in this young artist's iconography. Baby-faced, soft-spoken and unassumingly charming, 30-year-old Fatima may well be the flower girl of Philippine art. Her paintings of floral still lifes are popular among art collectors and well known for their vibrant colors and rich textures.

FLOWER GIRL. Painter Fatima Antonio with one of her works.



STILL life, oil on canvas

Family of artists

Although an interior design graduate of the University of Santos Tomas, Fatima is no stranger to fine art. In fact, she grew up in one of the most artistic homes in the country. Her parents are master painters Norma Belleza and Angel Antonio, while older brother Marcel is also a very popular artist.

"My mother encouraged me to take interior design because everyone else in my family was already painting," she recalls. But it was only a matter of time before nature and genetics took its course. Her professors observed early on that her design plates exhibited a more painterly style. After graduation, her recreational ventures into painting blossomed into a full-time career.

"*Ayaw ni* Mama *na kinukumpara kami sa isa't-isa*," Fatima explains, in a hushed, reverential tone. That, of course, is instinctively maternal. Fine art can be as cruel as show business and lesser talents often suffer the ignominy of comparison.

Nevertheless, Belleza's fears are unfounded; her children are gifted artists in their own right with already distinct styles.

A comparison, therefore, of mother and daughter is as inevitable as that between master and apprentice. Yet, in Belleza and Fatima, neither suffers the comparison because one sees merely a linearity, a natural progression, in style and technique.

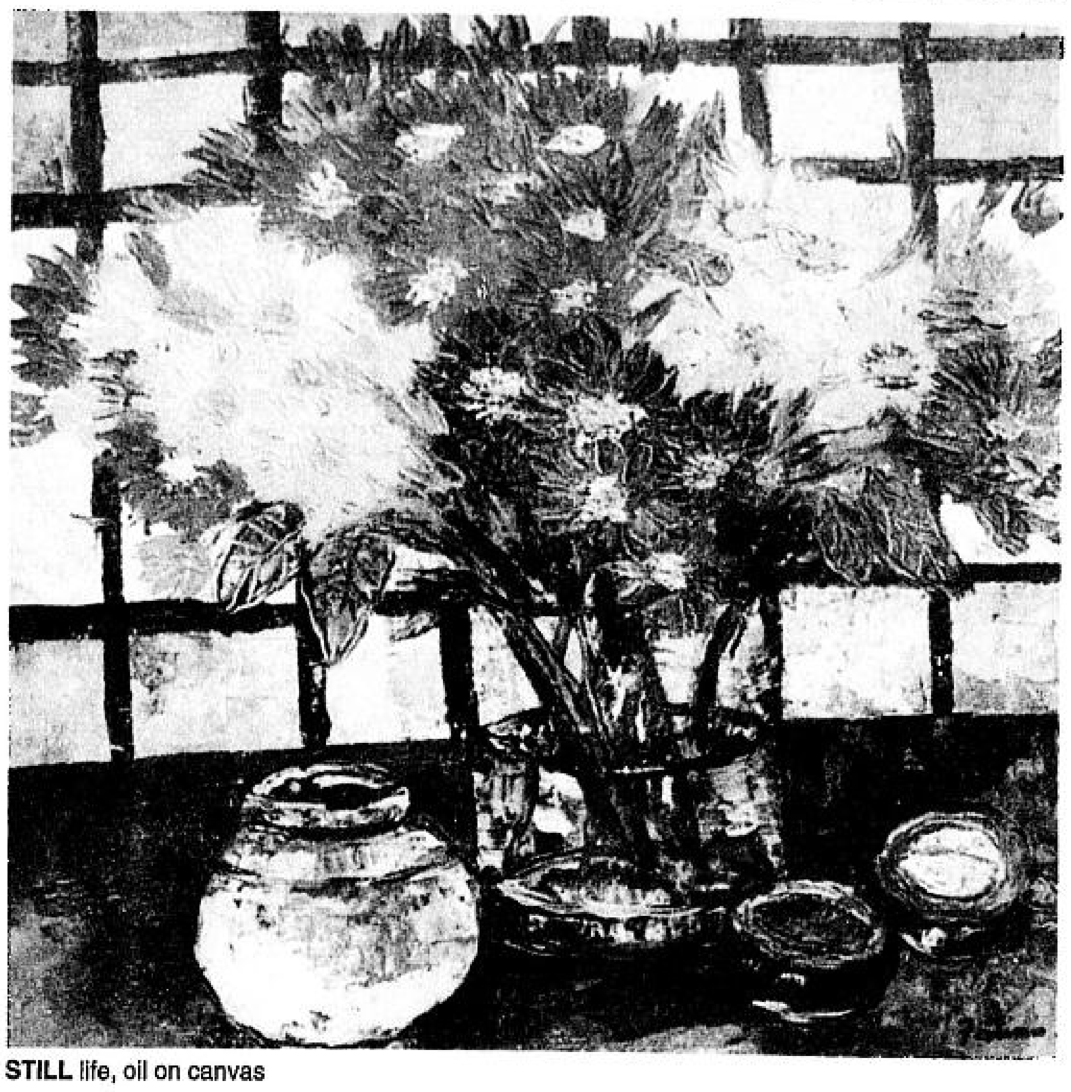
In art, as in many things in her life, Fatima is clearly her mother's daughter. She shares her mother's fascination for thick, impasto oils that create three-dimensional textures. Belleza is also an unseen hand in Fatima's works, occasionally arranging the colorful of assortment of flowers that one finds in the younger Antonio's canvasses.

Distinct style

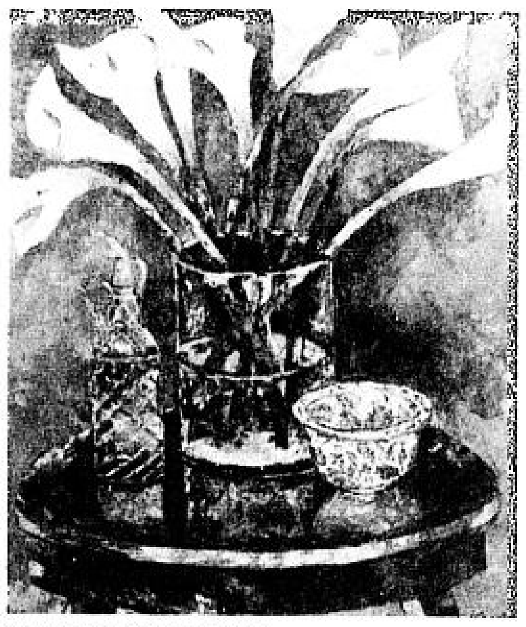
Fatima's timid demeanor belies the fiery, artistic, spirit within. Yet, it is this spirit that manifests itself in Fatima's paintings of flowers, vases, tabletops, porcelain and mantle pieces. Fatima shies away from the luminescence of thin oils and prefers the thickness of impasto to create rough, layered surfaces that serve as tactile invitations to the viewer. The artist likewise chooses to use palette knives over brushes to apply oil on canvas creating a wild sense of rhythm in both the visual shock of colors and the textural quality of the overall image.

One also finds in Fatima's juxtapositions of various elements a conscious effort to highlight contrasts. The tablecloths that usually cradle her floral arrangements of lilies, tulips and roses serve mainly to underscore the centerpiece, but are themselves visual feasts. Old bottles, lamps, picture frames and other stoneware add to this effect by evoking a deep sense of sentimentality not just for random objects but for memories of things past.

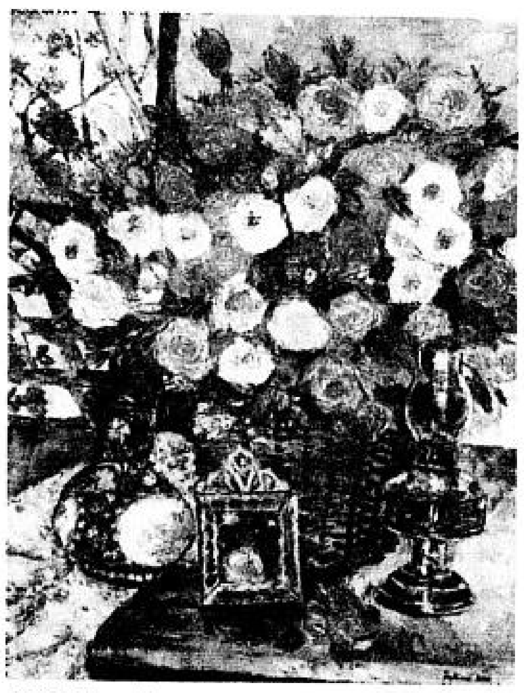
Lately, Fatima's works have begun to show greater depths of field. Her latest works incorporate spatial backgrounds of window exteriors, obviously culled from her interior design background, which hint at the wonders of discovery.



STILL life, oil on canvas



STILL life, oil on canvas



STILL life, oil on canvas

'Lipad Sining'

This week, Fatima will be one of the featured artists in "Lipad Sining," an exhibit of Filipino artworks to be staged at the Marina Mandarin Hotel in Singapore. The painter will share the limelight with sculptor Michael Cacnio and watercolorist Alfred Galura in an event that is expected to draw a sizable portion of the Filipino community in the island state. Jointly organized by Gallery Nine and the Singapore based Filipino Ladies Association Group (FlaG); "Lipad Sining" is the first in a series of shows that aims to bring Filipino art to the world. Fifteen of Fatima's latest works will be featured in the show.

Fatima Antonio's works are currently on view at the Heritage Gallery, Ad Infinitum Gallery and Gallery Nine. Call 899-2704.

Totems to the power and beauty of plants

By Constantino C. Tejero

JENNY Cortes' sculpture exhibit harks back to a time when plants were venerated as objects of worship. (Because humanity evolved in a plant environment, they played a major role in our religious rituals.)

"Herbarium," Cortes' third solo exhibit ongoing until Sept. 6 at the Crucible Gallery of SM Megamall, showcases two large-scale sculptural pieces as tribute to the magical quality of the beauty and variety of plant forms.

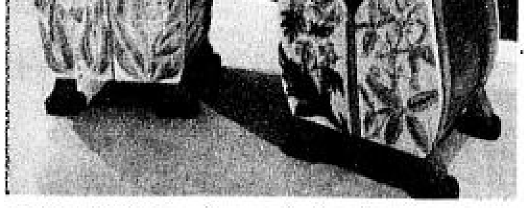
In a note on a wall of the gallery, the artist reveals how her work came to be: "It was but natural that we turned to plants for help in the struggle for control over our environment and our fate. Their energy, diversity and persistence appeared to early man as manifestations of powers that can be harnessed to cure ills, relieve misfortune, foretell the future, and achieve communion with the gods.

"Experiments with plants through the millennia of human existence produced a wealth of herbal lore. Myth, magic and superstition are inextricably woven with the practical uses of plants. The *arbularyo* and *manggagamot*, present practitioners of herbal medicine and magic, preserve for us some of this special knowledge. It is in recognition of the role that the power of plants plays in our lives that these totems are offered."

Magical and religious

These are wooden pieces depicting flora used by Filipinos as traditional medicine. The figures look like bloated totem poles carved and painted with totemic symbols.

Measuring 79" and 75" in height, the two pieces have curving sides of clapboards, detachable crowns, and door shutters that open to five shelves of narrow planks. The material is recycled wood, salvaged from an old house destroyed by typhoon. The crowns and shutters are acacia, the bodies *tanguile* and *lauan*.

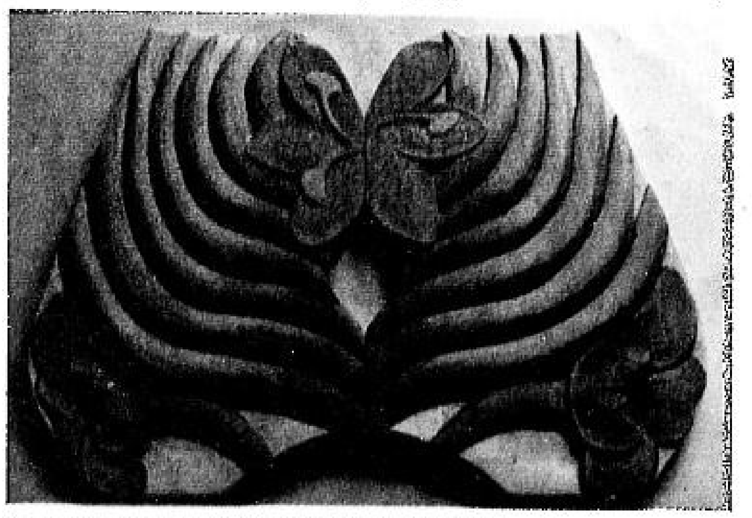


SCULPTURAL pieces depict Philippine flora traditionally used for healing and magic.

No nails were used in their construction, only wooden pegs and glue to hold the boards and planks together, and screws for the shutters' hinges. The tobacco-brown wood was applied with sanding filler, followed by finishing oil, making the varnished portion darker.

The two crowns and 16 door shutters of each piece were carved with florid foliage and efflorescence—a baroque relief of leaves, vines, stalks, fronds, panicles, blooms, of *makahiya*, *damong maria*, maiden-hair fern, angel's-trumpet, *alas-kuwatro*, *romero*, *caballero*, *talong-punay*, *abaniko*. Then the relief was stained with textile dye in pastel hues of pink, yellow, red, orange, blue, green, violet, mauve, silver.

Cortes laments that, despite the central role they play in our lives, the magico-religious property of plants seems to be diminishing. In her artworks, she has intended to preserve the fantastical forms and whatever magical quality that may have remained.



DETAIL of the florid foliage and efflorescence

Form and function

Says the exhibit note: "Perhaps it is the increasing distance of nature in the everyday environment of the people that has led to this neglect. For it is our common experience to encounter trees as timber sawn and planed smooth on four sides; cotton and hemp neatly packaged and labeled ready-to-wear clothes; food crops preserved and processed in cans and plastic bags; and medicine derived from herbs, in smooth multicolored cellulose-covered capsules.

"The aura of artificial packaging divests plants of any sense of the sacred. Advances in science and industry enable us to treat plants as parts of a manmade world when, in fact, plants shaped us."

In her two pieces' effulgence of colors and floral motif, in the flowing lines and curves and curlicues of these extremely ornate vegetal forms, Cortes has achieved some sort of postmodern rendition of the Art Nouveau—or tropical baroque, if you will.

But these aren't just *art décoratif.* Cortes, who specializes in relief and wall-mounted sculpture, creates freestanding pieces or sculpture-in-the-round that are actually functional.

At other times, these pieces would be called cabinets, and their ornamentation simply woodcarving. But these are really sculpture, or sculptural pieces, if you will—with the artist primarily concerned with form, and function following thereafter.

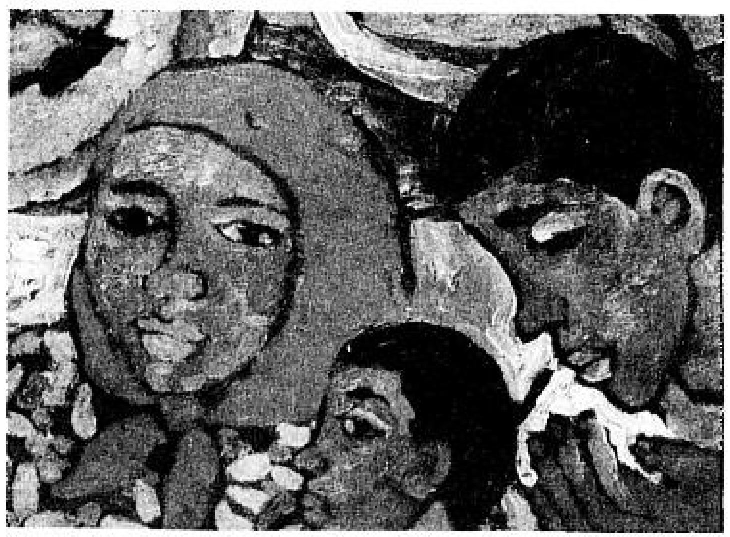
Aesthetic and social

Having apprenticed with sculptor Jerry Araos, Cortes has learned how to broaden the experience of art with this functionality. As the exhibit note says: "Functionality fosters the integration of the totems in the rituals of everyday living."

Araos' school Sanayan Lapat Kamay (Salakai) gives hands-on training in architectural planning and construction, landscaping and horticultural arts, book publishing, woodworking and photo-documentation. Its vision is "to create artistic products that integrate into the life of the community in its contemplative and functional aspects. Encounters with these objects and images enrich the experience of the audience, teaching and inspiring them to raise the tone of their everyday life."

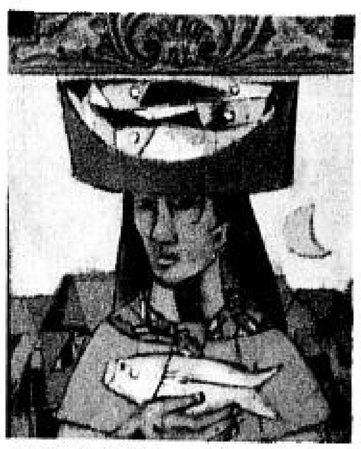
Salakai recognizes that art is created within a social context, thus, what its students produce have "deliberate aesthetic as well as social content." Artworks are conceptualized to "address the need for individual artistic expression as well as confront social needs and issues."

Cortes' sculptural pieces are a fine specimen of this art philosophy. Call them what you will, but it is the whimsy of Postmodernism that creates totems that can serve as étagères, book shelves, magazine racks or medicine cabinets. That, however, doesn't diminish the integrity of the art or the commitment of the artist.

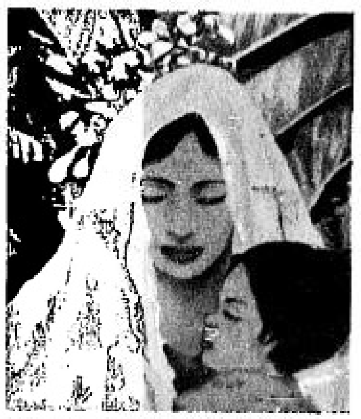


NORMA Belleza's "Angelus"

Ad Infinitum anniversary sale



ANGELITO Antonio's "Fish Vendor," oil on wood

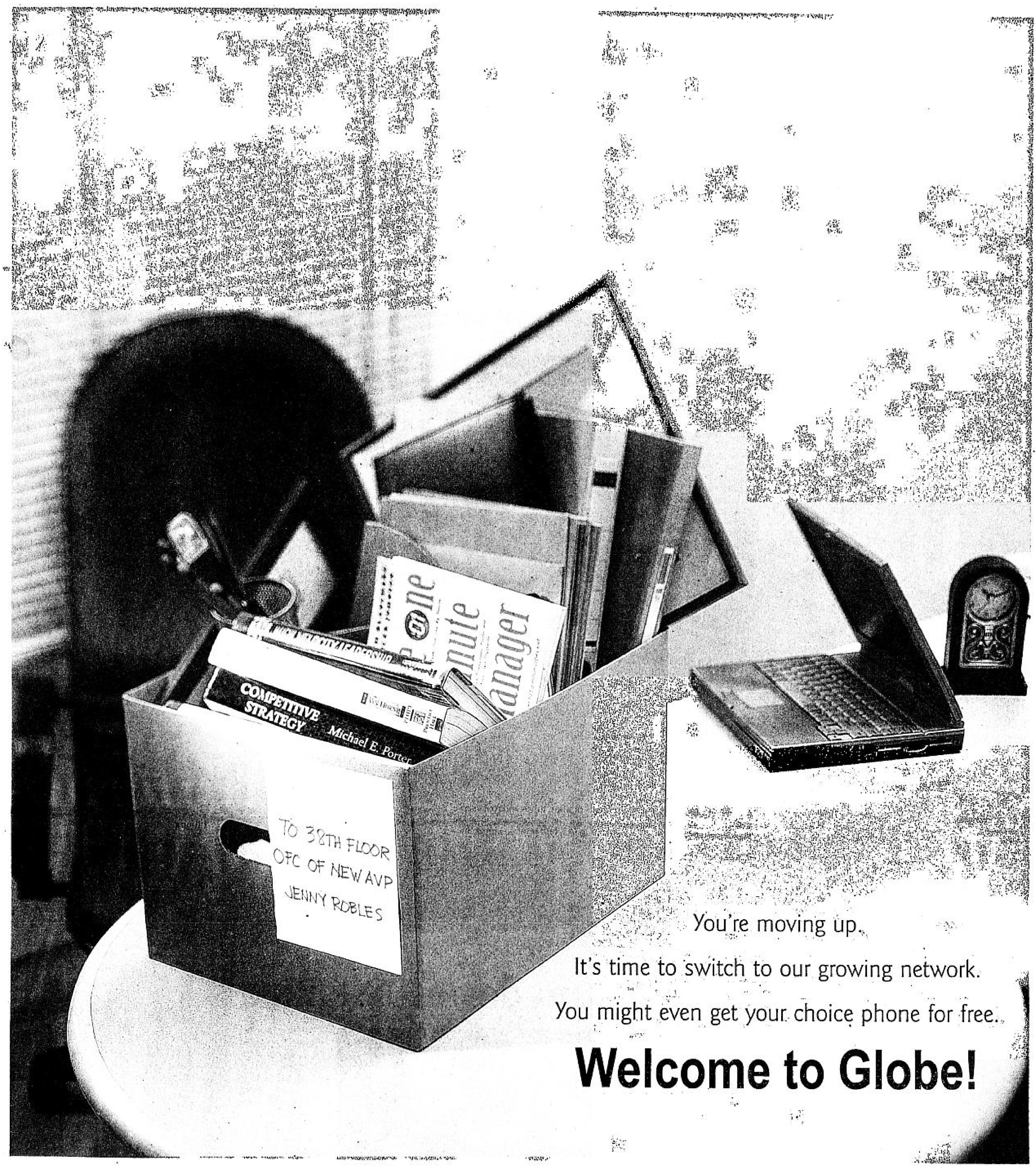


HERMES Alegre's "Mother and Child," oil on canvas

AS its 25th anniversary celebration, Ad Infinitum Galleries is offering works of the Blumentritt Group of Artists and of other contemporary artists and the masters at affordable prices.

Some of the featured artists are Allan Cosio, Gig de Pio, Andi Cubi, Egai Fernandez, Popoy Cusi, Greg Bolaños, Hermes Aleger, Jaime Roque, Jonah Salvosa, Cito Racho, Gene Gonzalez, Tony Nuñez, Jack Teotico, Camille de la Rosa, Jess Puertollano, Nonoy Duran, Offy Garcia, Gino Carlo Tioseco, Tony Peñaflor, Gejo Jimenez and Dominic Rubio. Artworks of well-known contemporary artists Marcel Antonio, Henri Cainglet, Plet Bolipata and Jerry Inco are also included. The masters represented are Sanso, Alcuaz, Onib, Antonio, Belleza, Sym and Custodio.

The sale is until Sept. 8. Ad Infitinum Galleries is at 190 F. Blumentritt St., San Juan. It is open Monday to Saturday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., and by appointment on Sundays. Call Christine or Ester at 762-9015 or (telefax) 724-3023.



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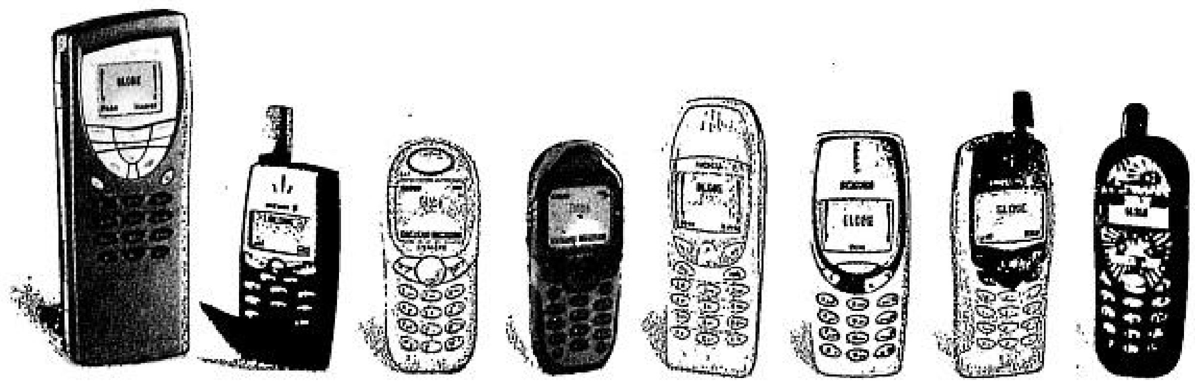

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Package 3 *Minimum of ₱2,500 each Must get Executive Plan or up	30,000	7,000	5,000	5,000	3,500	FREE	FREE	FREE.
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Gloriously aquarelle

BY. GINO DORMIENDO

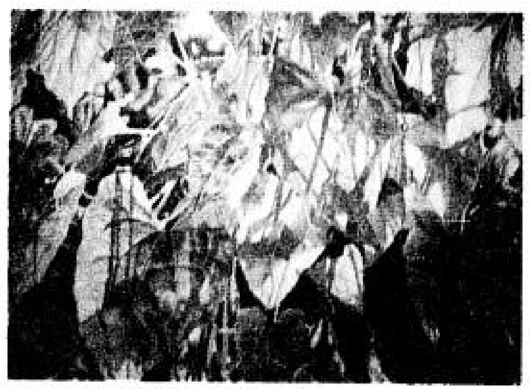
FOR 18 uninterrupted years now, Gallery Genesis, through owners Araceli and Ernie Salas, has played a pivotal role in promoting watercolor as a medium worthy of respect and equal in stature to other painting mediums. This has become possible mainly through the Genesis' pet project, the Kulay sa Tubig Annual Awards, where the country's best watercolorists are chosen by a distinguished panel. The finalists and other entries are then exhibited. Three-time winners are elevated to the Hall of Fame.

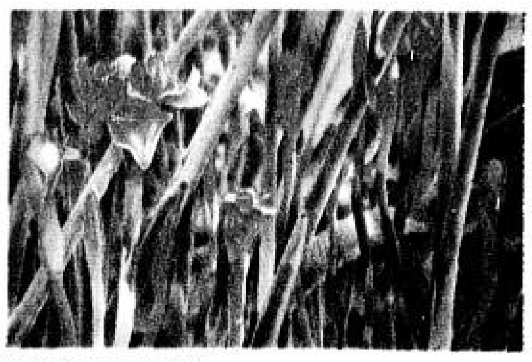
This year, a record number of 75 artists took part in the 18th Kulay sa Tubig Annual (Art Center and Gallery Genesis, SM Megamall), after a rigid prescreening process. Many of them have been longtime participants to the Kulay sa Tubig who devote a portion of their creative lives to working in watercolor. But some new names manage to crop up from time to time, with award-winning entries to boot, much to the surprise of the veterans in the group.

Named the best five watercolorists this year were Aldrie Acosta, Salvador Convocar, Egai Fernandez, Ernesto Patricio and Billy Pomida. They each won P10,000 cash and a plaque of recognition. (By winning three times, Fernandez was elevated to the elite Hall of Fame, joining such stalwarts as Manuel Baldemor, Toti Cerda, Jose Cerriola, Clarence Eduarte, Renato Habulan, Benjie Ladrido and Jimmy Vista.) Named runners-up were Agapito Ganzon, Jr., Jun Martinez, Chris Mirang, Mario Panis and Jonah Salvosa, who each received a cash prize of P2,500 and a certificate.

Emotive mastery

The award-winning pieces of Acosta and Pomida explore the magic realist terrain, distinguished by their emotive mastery of form, and well-delineated representation of tropical plants and fruits, which pretty much go beyond the conventions of still life. The former has a couple of stunning pieces in "Playing Lights in Green 1 and 2," which show an intimate, if photographic, view of wild, lush vegetation, in all its sun-dappled glory. Similarly, the latter zeroes in on a maze of exotic ginger-variety tropical plant, their red buds seen in close range; while another work shows an assortment of bananas (the *saba* variety) looking freshly picked as well as ready for the picking.


"PLAYING Lights in Green 2"


"TORCH Parade"

Fernandez, for his part, returns to his erstwhile SR roots with "Signos 1/ 2," whereby he shows the cropped, sepia-toned view of the rooftops of urban houses, their blighted image ostensibly framed in his trademark style, with portentous graffiti and droplets literally smearing the view like those on a lens.

Patricio's two works—"City Smog at Freak Babies" and "45,000 Biktima ni Magayon"—dwell on the effects of ecological nightmares, both natural and man-made, with a cloud of haze enveloping scenes of catastrophes.

Convocar, on the other hand, works in the quasi-abstract mode in "Celestial City," conjuring a landscape that is far from catastrophic, but is in fact closer to nirvana.

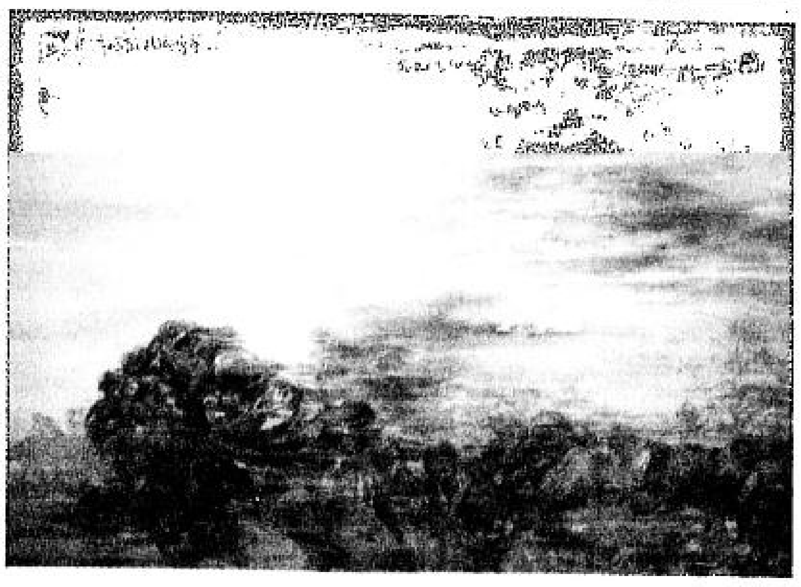
There are other equally revealing works by the runners-up that explore the versatility of the watercolor medium. Chris Mirang reprises his unerring style that won him the judges' nod last year in "Cat on the Tree" and "Boracay."

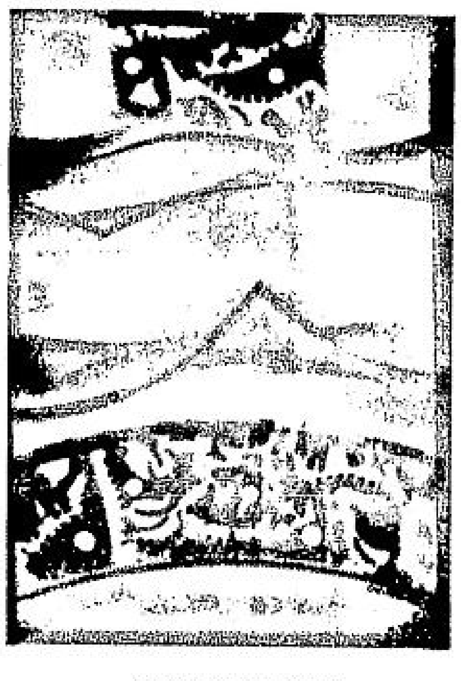
Salvosa's "Pinay" and "Dalaw ng Daranak" show his well-known skills at combining elements of dream and fantasy, the real and the surreal, as well as his penchant for portraiture.

Martinez mines historical lore in "The Last Katipunero" while Ganzon takes up the well-worn subject of vegetables and spices to render a new tableau of homespun appeal.

Panis, a true-blue watercolorist, does wonders with the medium in "Kois" and "Summer Frolic," pushing it beyond its normal confines.

Equally arresting were newcomer Joven Ignacio's "Bayan Ko," which shows a bird perched on a fence, enclosed by a barbed wire, contrasted by an infinitesimal horizon looming in the background. His other entry, "Ang Politiko," shows a couple of black hawks hungrily devouring the petals of flowers.


"45,000 Biktima ni Magayon"


"CELESTIAL City"

Caloy Gabuco's "Mother and Child" shows his usual subject caught in a loving, caressing pose. Al Perez has his usual painting of an old church. Fidel Sarmiento, cited in previous years, does his trademark renderings of old, quaint, provincial houses, with new touches here and there. And Danilo Santiago captures a surreal interplay of images in "Wet and Dry," an ars poetica of sorts with the emblematic use of the artist's tools.

Hall of Famers

The Hall of Famers get solo and undivided treatment in Genesis' space.

Baldemor is represented with four pieces, all dwelling on his European sojourn, with renderings of medieval castles and villages in Les Beaux, France.

Toti Cerda, undisputed master of the medium, has come up with three outstanding works, with "Dalampasigan" as the piece de resistance. Most innovative are his "Tree in a Tray," where he has painted bonsai trees incredulously magnified like giant trees for our delectation.

Jimmy Vista is a poet of the everyday scenes, his pastel-hued images capturing the urgency of the moment.

Renato Habulan has opted to paint still lifes of an assortment of plants, his delicate touch pervading the works.

It is, however, Clarence Eduarte, who shines dazzlingly in this show of Hall of Famers. With his two portraits, "Woman in Red," Eduarte shows how the all-too powerful red color can be used, manipulated, nay, mixed and matched, to reveal the most unlikely result. In a real sense, Eduarte shows how aquarelle can be fully harnessed to approximate the fullness of the painting medium, even if in the scheme of things, one is limited to just one color. The result is glorious as glorious can be.

Of art, friends and lost friendships

BY LORNA REVILLA MONTILLA-GELVEZON

I THINK there is no more appropriate time than now to look back and remember friends. Of how they influenced my life and became a significant part of it. Not a few have broken ties without me knowing how it happened. A few have faded away, preferring to live where there are no bothersome circumstances to disturb them. And sad to say, some have gone away never to return.

I still keep some of my friends and gave up some of them when they changed their world for other persuasions. I have a few I recently met. You know they are friends because of some mysterious chemistry that keeps the bonding alive. Yes, I can count in my fingers the friends I had and still have. Whether they are now in high or low places, they remain my friends although some of them might have forgotten the things we've gone through during easy as well as precipitous times. Among these are friends who broke up from each other for no valid reason. And it is heartbreaking to be in the center of it all.

Almost two generations ago, I met National Artist Vicente Manansala after having been introduced to Mauro Malang Santos whom I worked with at the Manila Chronicle when I was just starting to shoot the writers' scene. Through Malang, I met Ang Kiu Kok and Hugo Yonzon who were a very close "triad" at the time. Now, I see Malang walking alone without Ang Kiu Kok. And it is said that long before he passed away, Hugo Yonzon was never seen with any of his two closest friends for reasons I didn't wish to believe.

Tita Munoz

Rod. Paras Perez was just as close to me as Malang was and both became intimate with Tita Munoz who was one my best friends. She was there when I still had that palatial home in Mandaluyong. She was always there even when my palace turned to a small art gallery and she was the first one to visit when I came back from America and took this studio-condo whom another concerned friend had lent me.

Like Malang, Tita Munoz has remained one of my closest friends, despite our age, our infirmities, our many separations although sometimes I wonder where Rod Perez has gone. I hear he's still around but has chosen to change company. Years and circumstances can change friendships although I believe one can never end them.

I had met many more artists, who became my friends, but my bond with Malang was always there even if we couldn't agree on the most agreeable things, and even when we were far away from each other. Despite his resonant successes in art, Malang and I are always at each other's beck and call up to this very day.

I have been wondering though, why such great friendship between him and Ang Kiu Kok faded away. When Ang Kiu Kok became another National Artist, I wished Malang was there to congratulate him. I heard that the rift between the two was too deep, both of them could not even smile at each other.

I count writer Gilda Cordero Fernando one of my very few long-lasting friends. We have traversed many roads to look for what's true, good and beautiful, rain or shine, day and night. We hardly see each other now, but every time we meet it's like New Year's eve again. It's like popping a champagne bottle even if there's no bottle to pop. There are embraces, loud guffaws, stories that do not seem to have any endings, love that is renewed over and over again. This also goes with Margot Baterina who has retired to her hometown of Sarrat, Ilocos Sur to write her memoirs. I count myself as one of her friends who always went running to her succor.

Jullie Daza

Shortly after a chapter in her life closed, Jullie Daza, who was writing a column in one of the afternoon papers, became one friend who was always there when I needed someone to talk with. We had some chemistry seldom experienced by two writers with almost the same vicissitudes. She was younger than I by more than a decade, but we made it like long lost siblings. I have not seen Jullie in a long time, but I know that bells will ring and roses will bloom once we see each other again.

Then there are friends Ed Castrillo and Ramon Orlina, who are both sculptors.

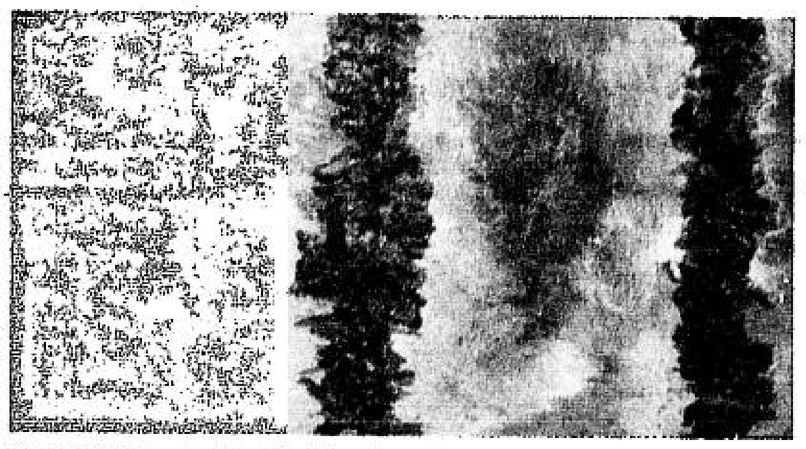
After I introduced Ed Castrillo to glass artist Ramon Orlina, something unnoticed by many happened to Orlina's art. Orlina's earlier glass sculptures definitely looked like true copies of Castrillo's moveable, angular works in bronze. But it did not produce a single pip from Castrillo. He didn't take it against Orlina. Everyone felt uneasy about that, but no one really pointed it out in the open. That Orlina might be making a name for himself in such great speed is true, yet Ed never felt threatened at all. Despite all these, Ed Castrillo remains one of Ramon Orlina's steadfast friends. That's one great thing about their friendship.

When the bonding has been tested by time and events, and when it stays no matter the rough edges, the misunderstandings and the many demands from one another, when you can endure the long separations and behave as if the friendship is still new, it sure is genuine and true to the end.

I have a number of friends with whom I have lost track of. I feel utterly blessed for the few others who run to the telephone to give me a cry of delight every time I call. Or immediately get an answer every time I e-mail "*asap*." Or try hard to come and visit whenever I'm sick. Or send me a mushy card on my birthday. Or leave me to cry on his or her shoulders when I feel there is darkness all around. Or take my own handkerchief to wipe the tears rolling down the wrinkles on her face. And like Malang, run to see my art exhibit even if he is running a fever and a stressful cold.

Yes, I think these are what friendship is all about, after all.

CALBAYOG City Mayor Mel Sarmiento and Milagros Diomanggay cut the ribbon to open the exhibit by the Calbayog Art Association at the Calbayog Arts Gallery. From left: Pio Santos, Jonas Lim, Rona Obong, Dante Rosales, Alan Diomangay, Manding Toleza, Vic Balane and Josie Aurea


"MONET'S Garden" by Christine Amador at Avellana Art Gallery until Sept. 26

Genodepa at Hiraya; Amador at Avellana

VISUAL ARTS

MARTIN Genodepa, an artist from Guimbal, Iloilo who specializes in coral stone sculpture, will mount his latest exhibit at Hiraya Gallery, 530 United Nations Ave., Ermita, Manila on Sept. 8-25. The show caps his residency at the Vermont Studio Center. Call 523-3331.

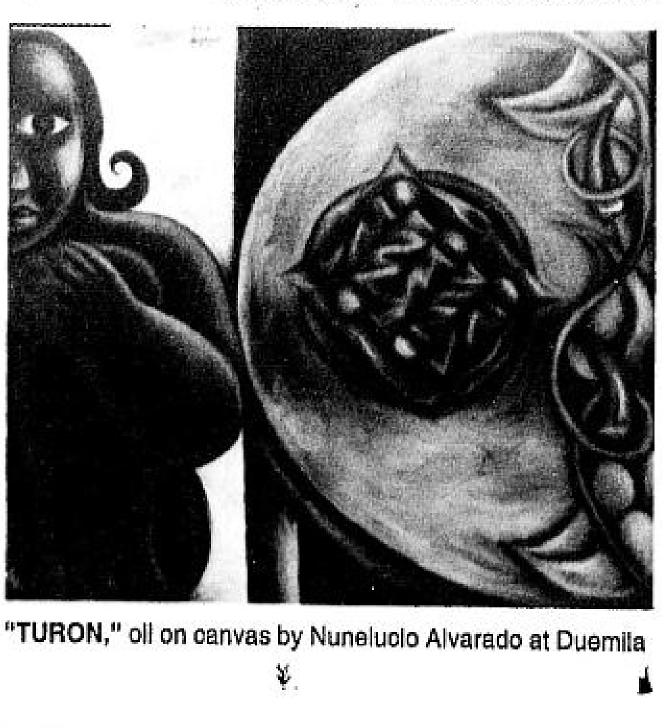
AMADOR AT AVELLANA ART GALLERY. Christine Amador opens her exhibit at the Avellana Art Gallery, 220 Fresno Road, Pasay City. Her paintings oblige the viewer to wander over the surface of the canvas, attaining what Cezanne calls as "provisional equilibrium." She invests on the surface texture and asserts the color's capacity to act through the canvas. The exhibit runs until Sept. 26. Call 522-9793 to 94.

ALVARADO AT GALLERIA DUEMILA. Nunelucio Alvarado will mount his latest show, "Namit-Namit (Yummy)," on Sept. 11-30 at the Galleria Duemila, 4/L Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Call 831-9990, 833-9815 or 633-6687.

LAZO AT THE SSS GALLERY. Sylvia Amorsolo-Lazo and her art group present "Random Horizon" at the 2/F SSS Building Gallery, East Avenue, QC. The exhibit opens today at 3 p.m. Participating artists include Herman Lazo, Pete Santos, Pacquing Verano and Slim Torre. Call 742-2597.

GROUP EXHIBIT AT HEART CENTER. The Philippine Heart Center Gallery presents "Art Collections by Ugnayan '80," an exhibit of works by 16 participating artists. The show formally opens today at the PHC Medical Arts Building ground floor lobby. It runs until Sept. 19.

MIRASOL AT THE CRUCIBLE GALLERY. Arnel Mirasol opens "Old-fashioned Fairy Tale Art" on Sept. 8 at the Crucible Gallery, 4/L Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Running until Sept. 10, it features 11 illustrations for the picture book "Hans Christian Andersen: Once Upon a Time." Published by Tahanan Books for Young Readers, the anthology contains a retelling by Fran Ng and Rene Villanueva of 10 fairy-tale classics such as "The Little Mermaid," "Thumbelina" and "The Nightingale." Call 635-6061.


"TURON," oil on canvas by Nuneluclo Alvarado at Duemila

VALENCIA AT THE HERITAGE ART GALLERY. Roceli "Baby" Valencia is mounting "Taking Root" until Sept. 15 at the Heritage Art Gallery, 3/F Glorietta 4, Makati City. The artist has combined different media on paper, oil, acrylic and watercolor.

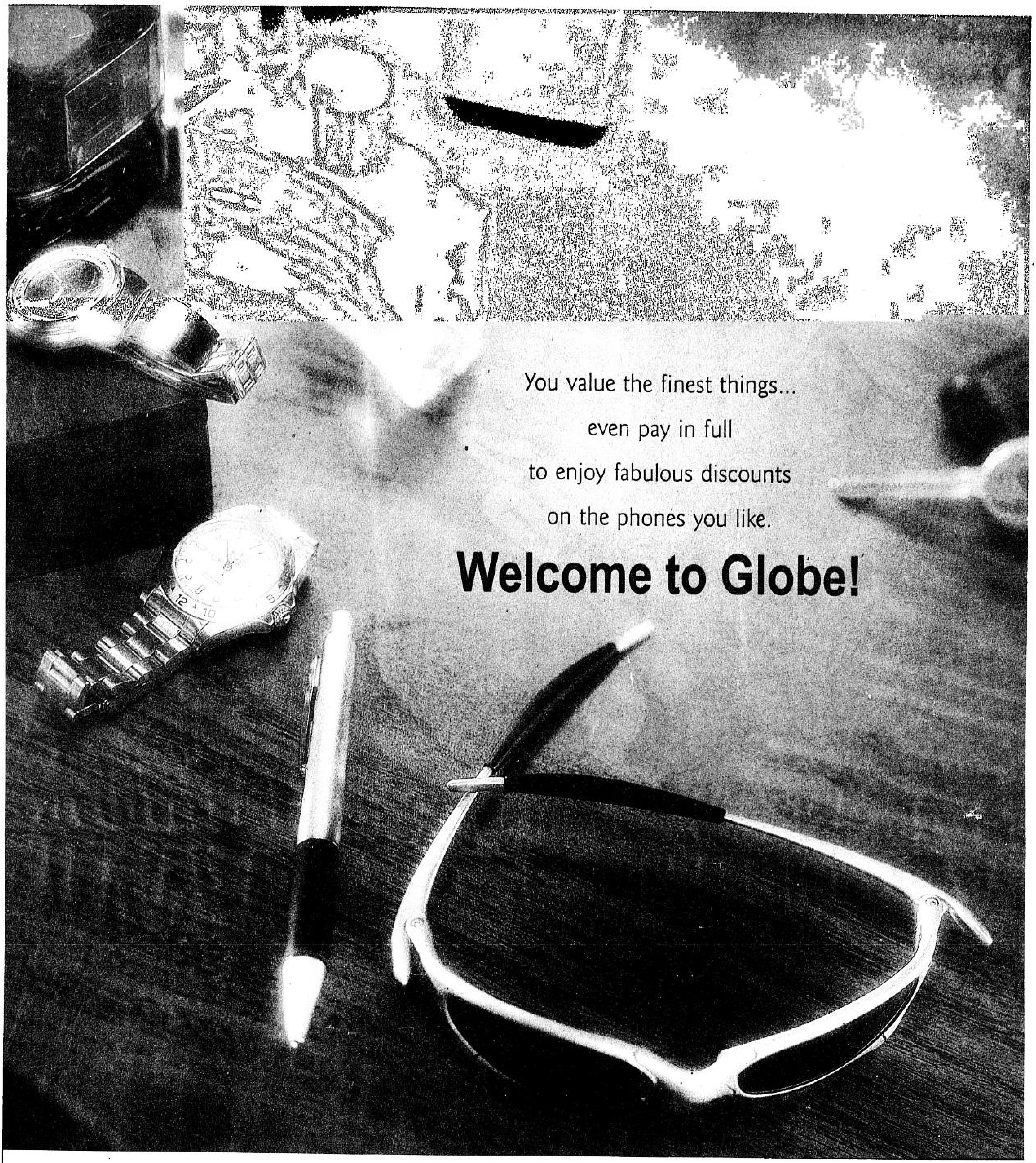
LAKAN SINING NG BULACAN SHOW. In celebration of Rustan's 50th anniversary, members of Lakan Sining ng Bulacan will hold a group exhibit, "Our Very Own... Fiesta Bulakeña," until Sept. 15 at the 6/F Rustan's Makati. Participating artists include Jose Joya, Malang, Al Perez, Fil Dela Cruz, Raul Isidro, Cee Cadid, Philip Victor, Soller Santos, Steve Santos, Fred Villanueva, Lito Carating, Roi Veneracion, Jose Marasigan, Danny Pangan, Rudolf Gonzales, Salvador Ching, Godoiredo Reyes, Willie Reyes, Joey Angeles, Ramon Hilario, Jess Gellada, Nilo Badajos, Mario Santiago, Rafael Asuncion, Conrado Mercado, Caloy Trinidad, Julius Lempe, Marivic Formoso, C.J. De Silva, Nilo Badajos, Nap Trono, Eric Marquez, Aris Bagtas, Reynato Villanueva, Mon Castillo, Cris Velasco, Mike Danganan, Nestor Villanueva, Aro Soriano, Justin Nuyda, Joey De Leon, Paz Cadid, Waldo Villanueva, Nemy Macapugay, Jun Cenizal, Eric Marquez and Ben Palao.

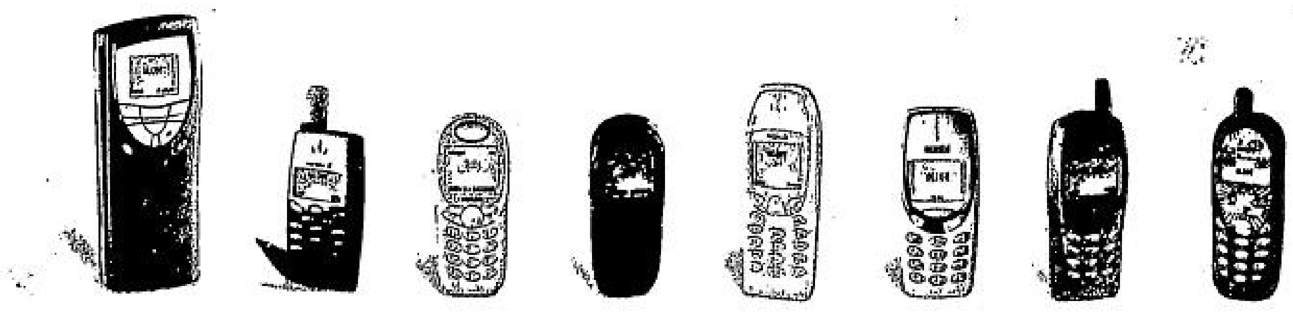
CEBU visual artist Arlene Villaver, artist-missionaries Dan and Marlene Francisco and restaurateur-artist Susan R. Hassig will hold a group exhibit on Sept. 15, "Chum Cho Fire!" (Swiss for "come and celebrate"), at the Vieux Chalet, home of fine Swiss cuisine in Antipolo. Above is Villaver with her works. The exhibit will run until Sept. 30.

TRAVELING EXHIBIT. The second Panit-Bukog Traveling Art Exhibit is grander in terms of scale and scope with Davao City joining the exhibit. Panit-Bukog 2 connects the Mindanao North with the South. Almost a year of preparation has been done to ensure the quality of the works. Thirty artists from the three cities, each with a unique artistic vision and statement, will contribute to the rich tapestry that is Mindanao art. No less than independent curator Bobi Valenzuela curated the exhibit. The logistical concerns are daunting because the works of more-than-average sizes will travel to the three cities. Promotion by word of mouth has been so effective that three cities (Butuan, Zamboanga and General Santos) have expressed intention to join the next Panit-Bukog exhibit.

GONZALEZ AT GALERIE Y. Rudolf Gonzalez is holding "The Rudolf Gonzalez One-Man Show" at the Galerie Y, Glorietta 4, Makati City. The exhibit features 17 pieces of seascapes, landscapes and still lifes, rendered in oil on canvas. Call 247-6789 or 242-5399.

SCULPTURE by Martin Genodepa at Hiraya





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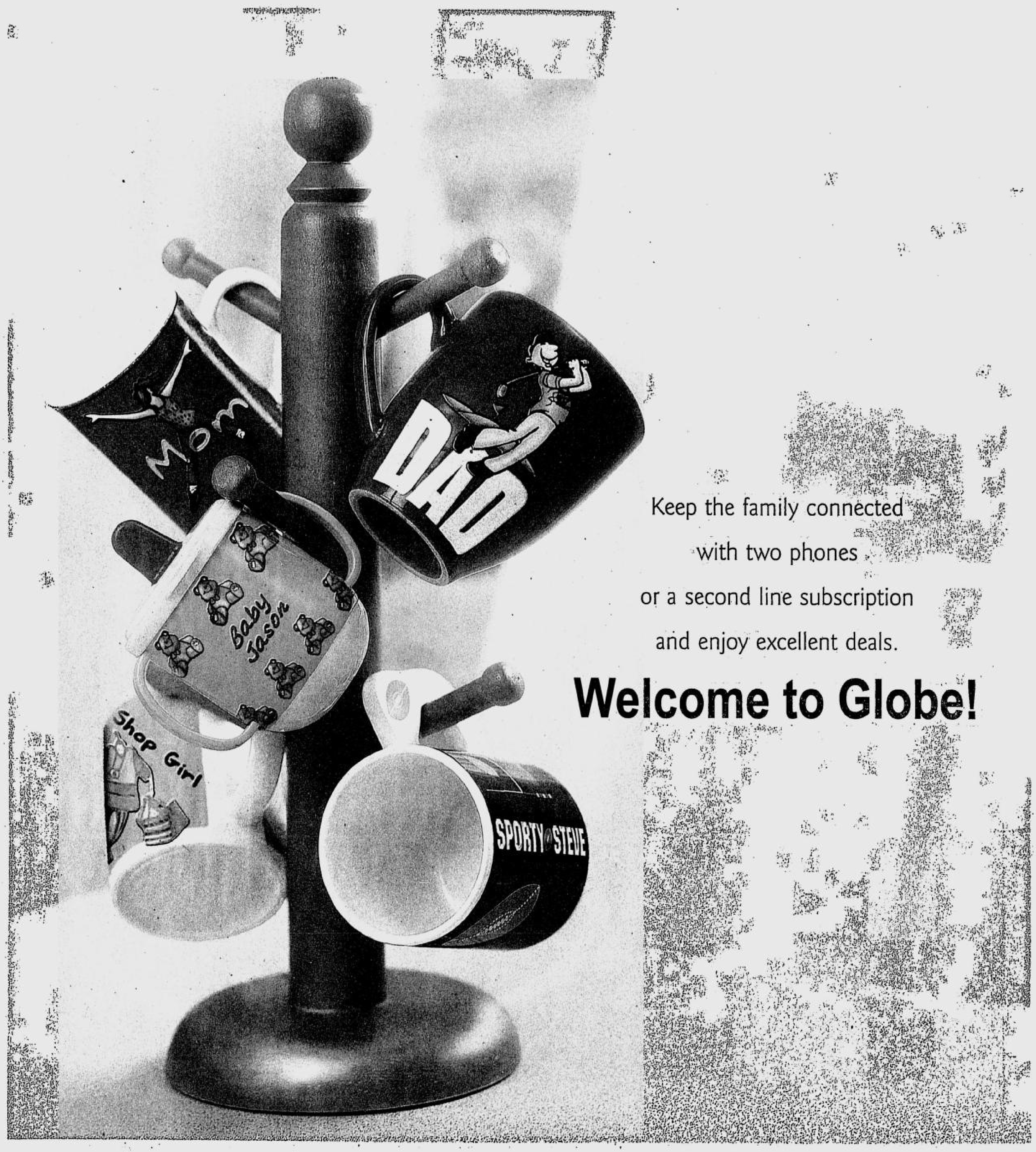

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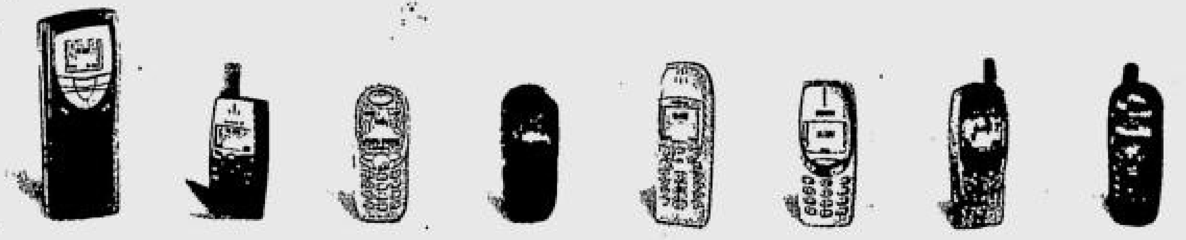

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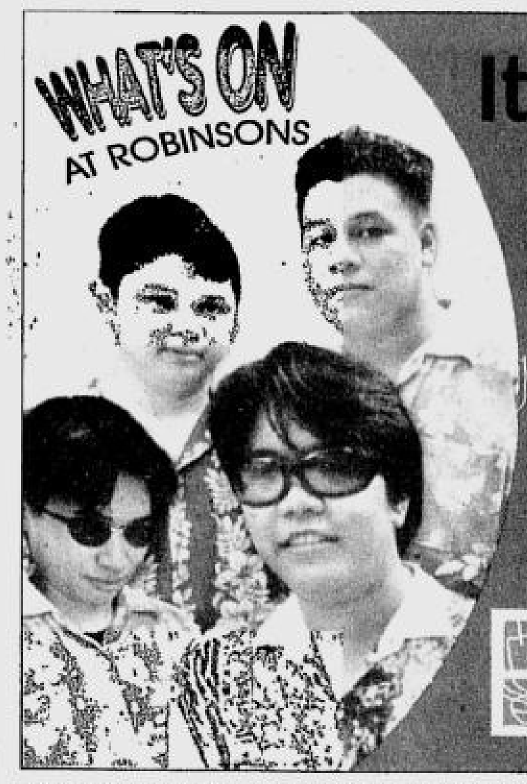
EXCLUSIVE

Lea Salonga begins rehearsal for biggest revival of 'Flower Drum Song'

Story on page E2

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS



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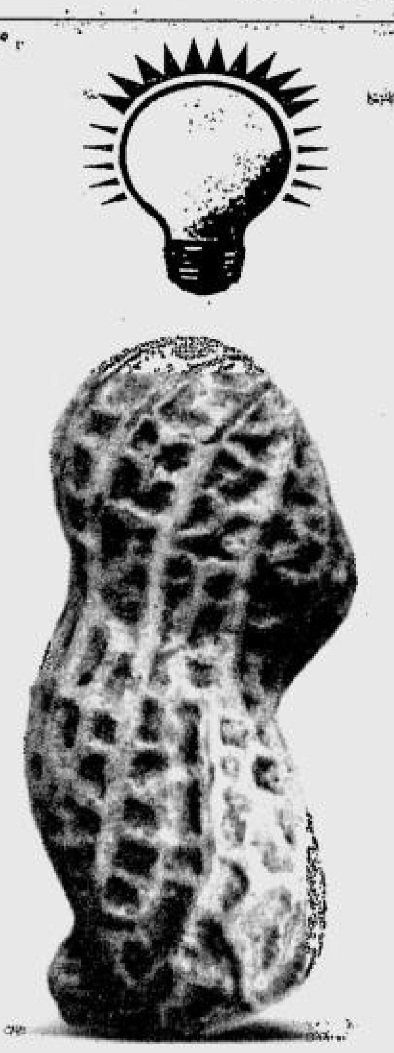

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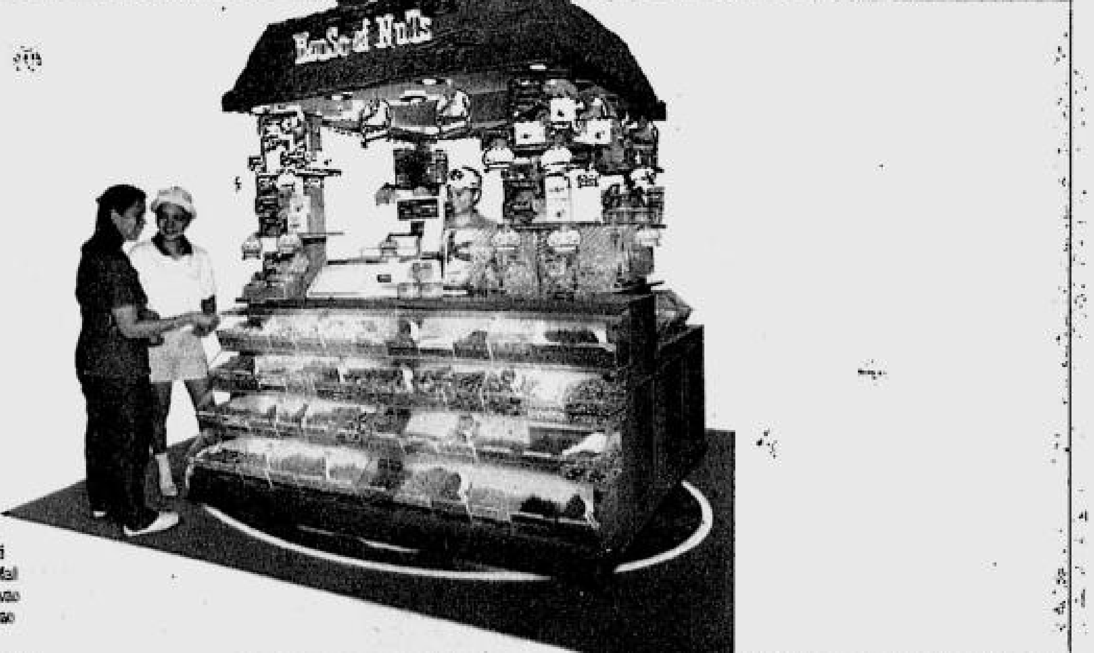
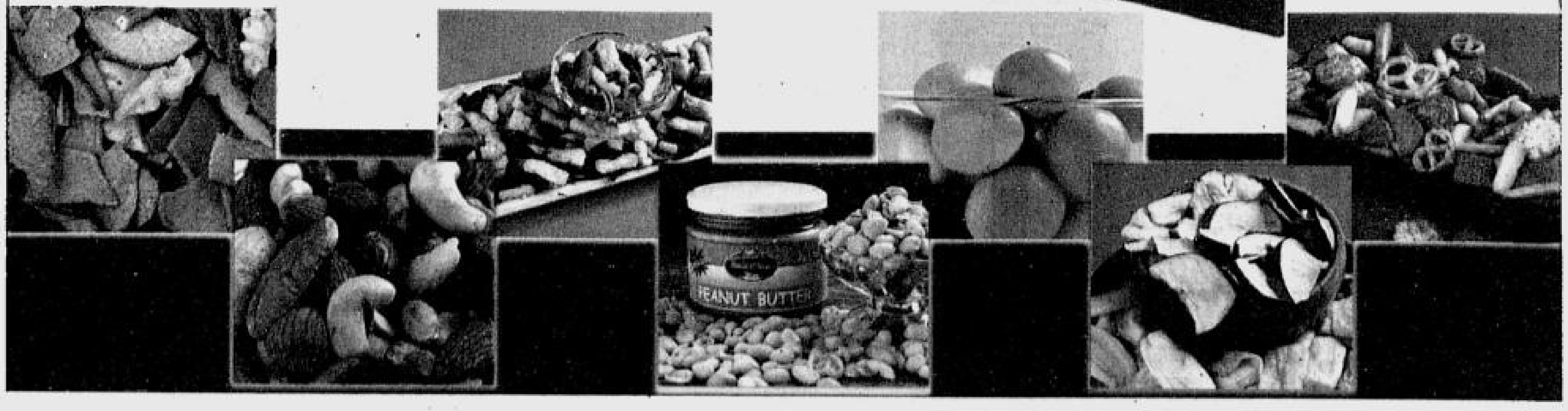




GANTIMPALA Theater Foundation just finished the Northern Luzon tour of "El Filibusterismo," the stage adaptation of Jose Rizal's novel by Jomar Fleras. The performances were seen by some 30,000 students from Araullo University in Cabanatuan City, Central Luzon State University in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija and St. Louis College in La Union. More performances are scheduled: on Sept. 7-8 at RFC Theater/Cinema 1 in Las Piñas; Sept. 20-23 at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo; and Sept. 29 and 30 at the Paco Catholic School. The play stars Jojit Lorenzo, Allan Paule, Karlo Enriquez and Kristine Arnaldo. Call 899-5745, 896-3503, 897-1533 or 895-8314.

Alam n'yo na ba ang latest kay Sharon?

Lea Salonga begins rehearsal for biggest revival of 'Flower Drum Song'

By Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—Lea Salonga has begun rehearsal for the first major revival of "Flower Drum Song" since the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical bowed on Broadway in 1958.

The Tony Award-winning Filipina actress has temporarily relocated to Los Angeles to star in the musical classic with a new book by playwright David Henry Hwang, himself a Tony Award winner with credits that include "M. Butterfly" and "Aida." The "completely reimagined" adaptation debuts in fall at the Mark Taper Forum, a theater that is part of the Music Center complex in downtown Los Angeles.

The Music Center is one of the world's most prestigious cultural venues and is one of the three largest performing arts centers in the US. Lea will try to conquer the stage that hosted such award-winning productions as "Angels in America," "Children of a Lesser God" and "Kentucky Cycle." One of the most memorable plays we have seen at the Mark Taper Forum was "Master Class," starring Zoe Caldwell as a compelling Maria Callas and the then virtually unknown Audra McDonald as one of the opera diva's students.

The Taper sits right beside the Ahmanson Theater, a venue for big musicals such as "Miss Saigon" and "The Phantom of the Opera" and where the most elegant dancer we have seen in years, Holly Cruikshank, is currently appearing in the Tony Award-winning musical, "Contact." Collectively known as the Center Theater Group (CTG), the Taper and the Ahmanson Theater have earned three Pulitzer Prizes and 34 Tony Awards. There is a possibility that "Flower Drum Song" will follow the success of several productions nurtured at either Taper and Ahmanson that moved over to Broadway.

Filipinos who have watched the Oscar Awards show on TV are familiar with a glamorous landmark at the Music Center: the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, site of Hollywood's most important event until the mid-'90s. The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion is home to classical music's poster boy, music director Esa-Pekka Salonen, and the renowned Los Angeles Philharmonic orchestra. The Pavilion is also home to the Los Angeles Opera, whose artistic director is Placido Domingo.

Lea's starring role participation in a production at the Music Center complex is clearly another high note in her remarkable career. She plays the pivotal role of Mei-li, a young refugee from Communist China who experiences a story shared universally by American immigrants whether they come from China, the Philippines or other countries—the struggle to hold on to traditional beliefs from the homeland or to assimilate. Lea' character also falls in love. We learn that she gets to sing additional songs not performed by the Mei-li character in both the original Broadway production and the film adaptation (1961), which received five Oscar nominations.

Lea also tells us by e-mail that there are four other Filipinos in the cast: Jose Llana, Charlene Carabeo, Robert Pendilla and Jennifer Paz. Paz played Kim in the Los Angeles production of "Miss Saigon" at the Ahmanson.

When we learned early last year that the CTG was going to stage "Flower Drum Song" as part of Ahmanson's 2000-2001 season, we immediately thought of Lea as a possible star. But even before the project could take off and way before it could reach the casting stage, the show was canceled due to financing problems. Fortunately, the new staging of the engaging love story pushed through and will kick off the Taper's 2001-2002 season instead of the Ahmanson's. Writes Gordon Davidson, esteemed artistic director for the CTG/Mark Taper Forum for the past 34 years, in his letter to subscribers:

"I am pleased that the 'cancellation of the production' has turned into a short postponement," Lea said. "It has allowed us to reconceive the project and make it more financially feasible to produce a first-class production."

Lea is making the most of her stay on the West Coast, opting to stay in a Los Angeles suburb that is as completely different as possible from her US home base, New York. She says she has been enjoying shopping at "cheap clothing stores for rehearsal outfits. As in, $10 (or less) shirts and $15 (or less) pants. I can buy more of them and not feel terribly guilty."

These days, the actress has been signing off her e-mail to friends and acquaintances with a quote from Natalie, Cameron Diaz's character in "Charlie's Angels": "Do you know how hard it is to find a quality man in L.A.?" Asked if she really agrees with this line, Lea replies, "It's hard to find a quality man anywhere. But I use that as my signature line because my boyfriend's (actor Michael Lee) from L.A.; funny part is, I didn't find him there. We had to meet in Manila."

On her stint on the TV soap "As The World Turns," she announces, "I've left the show, my stint has pretty much ended. It was a fun stay and I learned a lot." She continues to record for BMG Records back home (we are listening to her concert CD with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, "Songs from the Screen" as we write this).

"Flower Drum Song" previews begin on Oct. 2. The show opens on Oct. 14 and will run through Dec. 2.

The following is our Q and A with Lea:

How did you land this role?

Robert Longbottom, our director and choreographer, asked to meet with me while I was in New York one fine spring day. We had lunch that afternoon, and I got the offer soon after.

Going into the rehearsals, what are your expectations in starring in "Flower Drum Song," considering your tremendous success with "Miss Saigon"?

My expectations going into each show are the same... that it will be a wonderful experience for me as an artist, getting to be part of creating something that hopefully will be not only a collaborative piece that everyone who's part of it can be proud of, but as a piece of entertainment that our audiences will be able to enjoy. I didn't take into account "Miss Saigon's" success... I can't go into a new show thinking that anything will equal, surpass, or fall short of that experience. It wouldn't be fair to either show.

How did the first few days of rehearsals go?

The first few days went as expected... trying to figure out everyone's names and getting used to the commute to and from work. Our first day was kind of a getting-to-know-you session, where most everyone from the production and creative team got together and met. We also had our first music rehearsal that afternoon. As for the rest of that first week, we pretty much started work on more music and choreography. It was a lot to take in.

Have you seen a production of "Flower Drum Song" before this?

This production is the first major revival since the Broadway production many, many years ago. Of course there have been smaller productions around the country, but nothing quite like this. But no, I've never seen a production of "Flower Drum Song" before working on this. I did, however, see the film.

How is David Henry Hwang's new adaptation different from the original Broadway and film versions? And is the musical still set in the mid-20th century? Will your character have new songs aside from "A Hundred Million Miracles" and "I Am Going to Like It Here"?

It's a completely new book. It doesn't resemble the original Broadway or film versions in the least. It's still set in the mid-20th century, as the costumes and the language will illustrate. As for songs... I have all the Mei-li stuff, plus "Love, Look Away" and "The Next Time It Happens" (originally from the show "No Strings").

Any favorite song from the show so far?

None yet... I'll have to live with the songs some more before I can really pick out a favorite.

How different is this role from your roles in "Miss Saigon," "They're Playing Our Song," etc. in terms of acting and vocal challenges?

Each role is unique... it would be difficult to go into comparisons this early in the game, as I don't know Mei-li as well as I do Sonia or Kim. Ask me later, and maybe I'll have a better answer.

How do you feel about appearing on an American stage again?

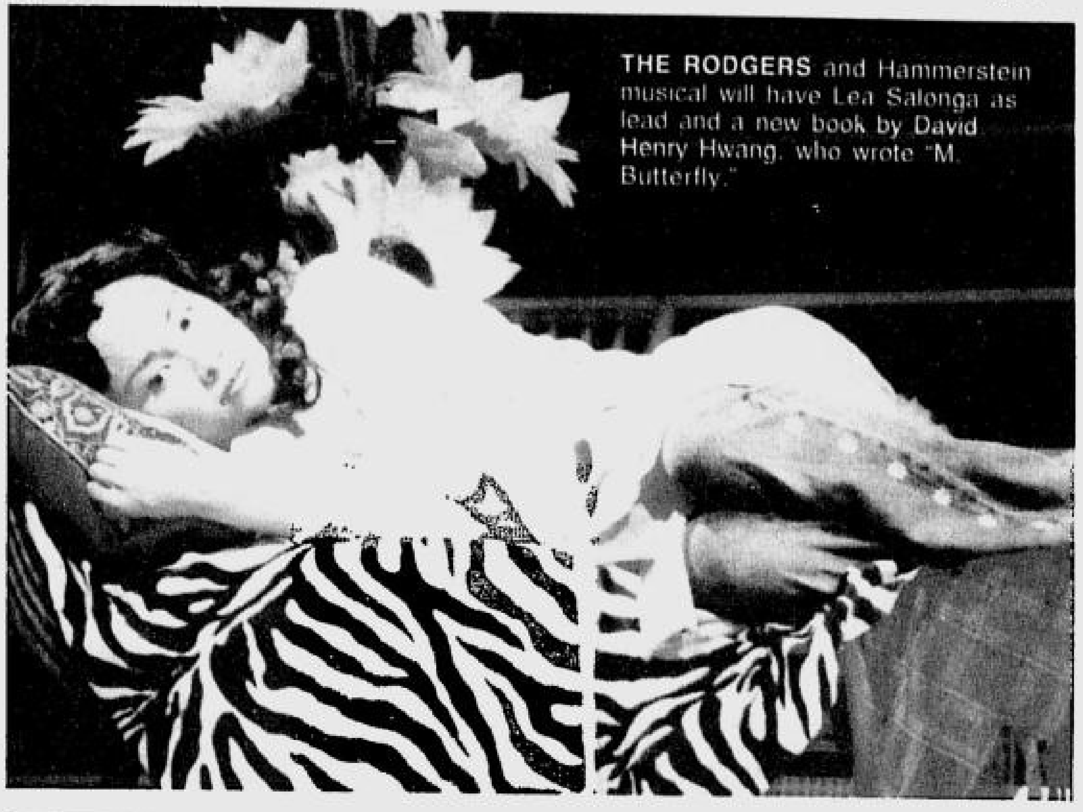
Feels pretty good... the last time wasn't too long ago (closing of "Miss Saigon," Jan. 28), so the feeling hasn't exactly gone away.

Any adjustments you have to make now that you are in L.A. for the show, as compared to your lifestyle in New York?

Not very many... I have to drive to and from work now, something that I'm enjoying a lot... a lot more space versus New York, which can be quite compressed... I don't walk as often as I did living in NYC where you have to walk virtually everywhere... but the groceries here are huge, as are the shopping malls. The main difference for me is that things are more spread out.

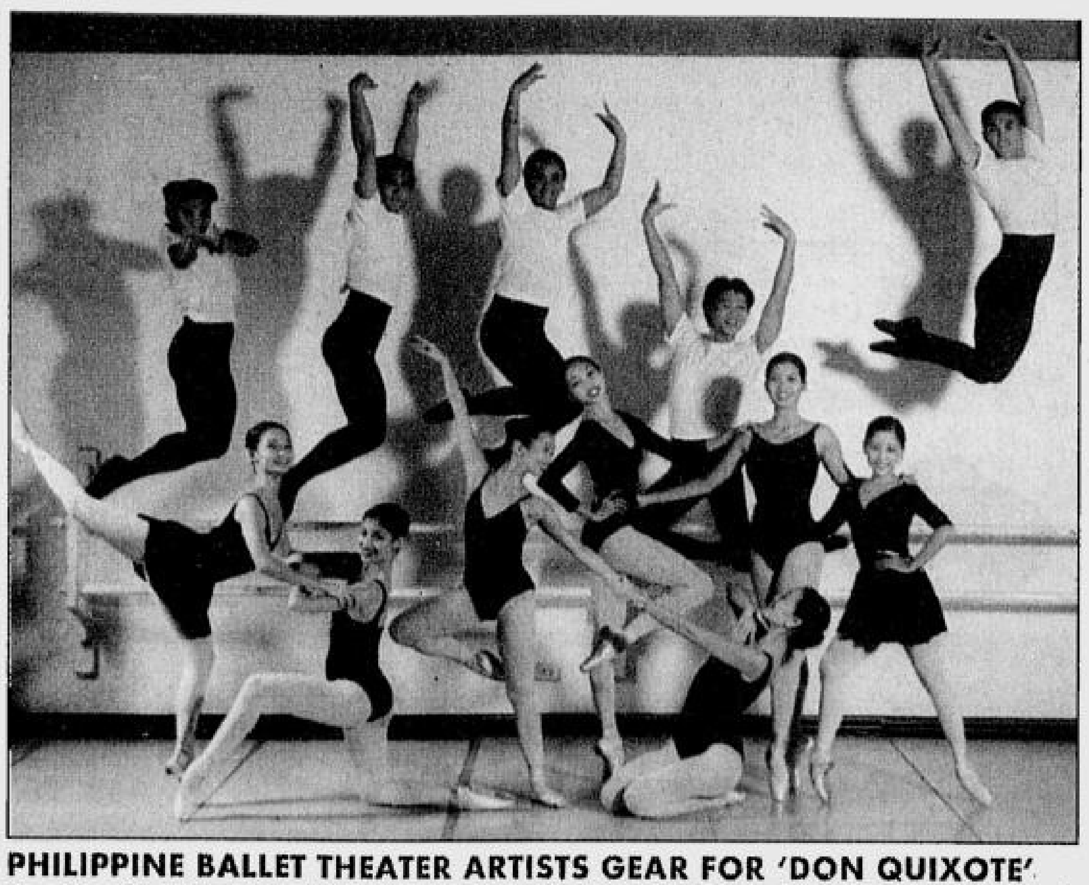
Are you staying in downtown L.A. to be close to Mark Taper?

Nope... I wanted to live in a place that didn't remind me of New York in the least. I didn't want to be surrounded by high-rise buildings, or hear garbage trucks collecting rubbish from the dumpsters at 5 a.m. I wanted quiet nights... low buildings... and a huge grocery close by.



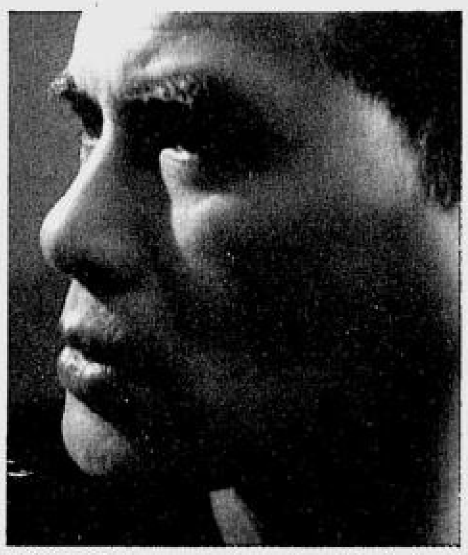
THE RODGERS and Hammerstein musical will have Lea Salonga as lead and a new book by David Henry Hwang, who wrote "M. Butterfly."

LEA expects the new production to be a "wonderful experience."



PHILIPPINE BALLET THEATER ARTISTS GEAR FOR 'DON QUIXOTE'

The Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc. and the University of the East were co-sponsors of Philippine Ballet Theater artists who took the National Ballet Syllabus Teachers Seminar, endorsed by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. The seminar was followed by a video shoot for the Classical Variations Section of Years V-VIII of the Philippine Ballet Syllabus. The same artists will take lead roles in the PBT's production of "Don Quixote de la Mancha" to be staged at the Main Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Sept. 6, 7 and 8 at 8 p.m. and Sept. 9 at 3 p.m. Tickets are available at the CCP Box Office with 50-percent discount on orchestra seats for students with ID.



DANCER Nonoy Froilan plays Macbeth in Tanghalang Pilipino's production of the Shakespearean drama. Directed by Chris Millado, the play features Edna Vida as Lady Macbeth. It goes on stage on Sept. 7, 8, 14 and 15 at 8 p.m., and on Sept. 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 3 p.m. Call 832-3661/1125.

The inspiration of Fr. Joe Castañeda for his song 'Sino Ako?'

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

WHEN I first heard the song "Sino Ako?" five years ago, I wondered who had written such a heart-rending song. It was sung by organist-singer Bobby Cellano at the Binondo Church during Holy Communion.

Last Tuesday, I finally met the composer, Fr. Joe Castañeda, in the presscon organized by Danny Dolor at the Pearl Manila Hotel. When he sang it himself after lunch, most of us cried. You will understand why if you know the lyrics.

The refrain goes this way: "*Kundi ako umibig/Kundi ko man bigyang halaga/Ang buhay na handog/Ang buhay kong hiram sa Diyos/Kundi ako nagmamahal/Sino ako?*"

When Father Joe was still a seminarian in 1981at the St. Alphonsus School of Theology, he visited the sick in hospitals. At the Quezon Memorial Hospital in Lucena, Father Joe met a very sick man whose wife had left him and brought with her their children.

The sick man also needed medicine to ease the pain brought about by his ailment. Somehow the medicine got delayed which added to the man's despair.

When Father Joe went back to the seminary that day, he sat down to write the song that had formed in his mind. It's about being thankful for having been born. It's also about the kind of person you are if you don't know how to love.

Father Joe, who is now an assistant parish priest of the Basilica de Immaculada Concepcion in Batangas City, asked Fr. Bong Panganiban to do the musical arrangement of his song. Father Bong, who is known to be a genius at the keyboards, came out with a haunting arrangement.

Father Joe first sang his song on the ordination of Fr. Ricky Palmaria in November 1981. The first master tape, which had a jacket cover titled "Dahil May Buhay," was produced with only 800 copies. Father Arcilla designed the original cover, while Sr. Claudia Parco, DSP, helped in doing the master tape. On Nov. 30, 1984, Father Joe was ordained a priest and the song "Sino Ako?" was played and sung during his ordination.

Father Joe found time to do more tapes of songs, composing about 20, such as "Unang Landas" and "Kung Nagkulang Man."

I first saw Father Joe celebrating Mass at the Ermita Church in June 1999. He sang the Mass in Tagalog, including the Consecration. I did not know then that he was the composer of "Sino Ako?"

Fr. Toti Mandanas, parish priest of Immaculate Conception Church in Balayan, recalls that when he was in Rome studying at the Angelicum University, Filipinos would sing the song during Mass. It was very popular, he said.

Fellow priests who came with Father Joe at the presscon were Fr. Matt Orario, parish priest of Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish in Batangas City, and Fr. Bon Cumagun, parish priest of San Isidro Church in San Isidro, Batangas.

But who is Father Joe? Apparently, even as a child, Father Joe had already wanted to sing and compose songs. He was a contestant in the same singing competition that catapulted Nora Aunor to stardom 30 years ago in Naga. Father Joe is from Buhi, Camarines Sur, born to Andres Castañeda and Segundina del Rosario Sarto on Feb. 4, 1956—the sixth of 12 children.

"SINO AKO?" composer Fr. Joe Castañeda

For the purchase of his tapes, you can call Father Joe at (043) 723-1484. Each tape has the song "Sino Ako?"

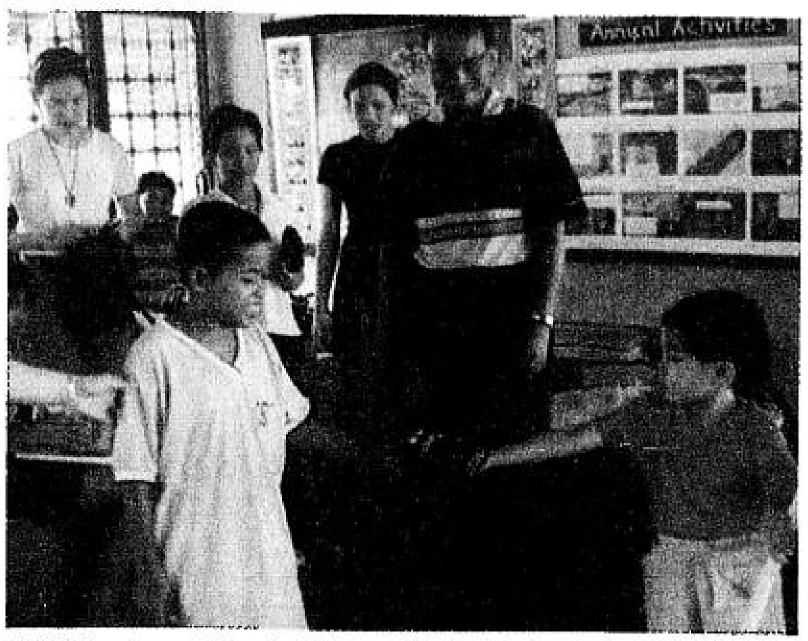
Standard Chartered and SOS Village

THERE are 100 children housed at the SOS Village in Alabang, Muntinlupa, aged 3-12. Concerned about their future, Standard Chartered Bank is doing "Books Around the World" by soliciting reading materials from the bank's international branches in 55 countries. This year-round campaign has yielded interesting educational materials that are now at the SCB Learning Center at the SOS Village.

Mike Aguilar, SVP for global markets, personally went with his daughter Bianca to hand over toys and books to the children. Officers and employees of SCB have been encouraged to do community service at the SOS Village's eight houses.

The first batch included Mike Aguilar, Toto Tansingco, Diane Coronel, Juanito Imperial and Monique Jugo. SBC credit cardholders can also donate.

This is certainly good news during these hard times. People continue to reach out. And remember that "if you are down to nothing, God is up to something." For full text, e-mail me at josiedpurely@yahoo.com.



MIKE Aguilar of. Standard Chartered Bank (center) witnesses turnover of toys to a SOS child by his daughter Bianca.

La Leche devotion is a year old

THE DEVOTION to Our Lady of La Leche, which was revived by Baby Gonzales and Fr. Nick Blanquisco, turns a year old on Sept. 9. There will be a Mass at 10 a.m. at the Our Lady of Fatima Parish on Mariveles Street, Mandaluyong City with Fr. Jack Padua as celebrant.

Our Lady of La Leche is the patroness of mothers and expectant mothers. There will be a special Mass at 5 p.m. of the same day for pregnant women wishing for safe delivery, married women who have difficulty conceiving a child, and mothers who are facing serious problems regarding their children.

There's also an image of Our Lady of La Leche at the Harrison Plaza in Malate. You can also attend Mass there.

Peñafrancia fiesta in Manila

THE METRO Manila devotees of Our Lady of Peñafrancia will hold triduum Masses at St. Andrew Church in Bel-Air on Sept. 6, 7 and 8 at 6 p.m. The following day, Sept. 9, at 2:30 p.m., a motorcade will bring the miraculous image from the church to Romus Trading Terminal on Ayala Bridge.

From there, the image will be carried on a fluvial procession passing the bridges of Ayala, Quezon and MacArthur and ending at the ferry landing in Escolta. Women will carry the image to the Manila Cathedral at 5 p.m. on time for the concelebrated Mass by Bishop Nestor Carino and other priests at 6 p.m.

Only male adults will be permitted to board the barge carrying the Virgin during the fluvial procession. Schools near the cathedral are encouraged to join the procession from Escolta.

Manaoag fiesta in October

THE SECOND fiesta of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag falls on Oct. 7. Those who cannot go to Manaoag, Pangasinan can attend the nine-day novena Masses starting Sept. 28 at the Pinaglabanan Church in San Juan. The Virgin, however, will arrive on Sept. 29.

This week from Sept. 2-9, the pilgrim image will be at the Sacred Heart Parish in Welfareville, QC.

Fund-raising concert

CANCER victim James Auste, who has been cured of the disease, is organizing with friends like Dr. Aiee Antonio a concert to raise funds for cancer information and assistance to victims.

The Bike for Life project that James launched last year was the maiden project of the Cancer Warriors Foundation. Another project is "Cancert: Kantahan para sa Kabataang may Kanser," on Sept. 9 at 8 p.m. at the AFP Theater. For tickets, call 551-4588 or fax 833-0059.

GMA to crown Buen Suceso

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will crown Our Lady of Buen Suceso on Sept. 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the St. Andrew Church in La Huerta, Parañaque to mark the first anniversary of the canonical coronation of Our Lady under this title. Bishop Jesse Mercado will assist the President. Novena Masses are going on at 6 p.m. until Sept. 7.

Uuuuubod ng Sarap!
Goldilocks Fresh LUMPIA
Buhay Pinoy. Kain Pinoy Sa
Goldilocks

Meron daw siya'ng kasama na super saya at super sarap mag-alaga!

They came to toast a book and relive Edsa II

DILG Secretary Joey Lina and book editor Thelma Sioson- San Juan

PRESIDENTIAL Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao

MANILA Archbishop Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

Amiga

IT has barely been a year since the impeachment trial and the peaceful revolution that upheld the truth denied by the trial, yet the lessons of those events have not been fully learned. Believing that the people can move forward by learning from the mistakes of the past, ABS-CBN Publishing with Security Bank has produced the book "People Power 2: Lessons & Hopes."

Edited by **Thelma Sioson-San Juan**, the book brings together insightful essays by political observers, social analysts and people at the forefront of the effort for national change. It gives readers chance to evaluate the country's democratic institutions under the Estrada administration—what allowed him to rise to power, how he abused his power and how the people could protect democratic institutions from future abuses of power.

The essayists include Secretary **Raul Roco, Solita Monsod**, Bishop **Socrates Villegas, Carol Hernandez, Glenda Gloria, Joselito Zulueta, Dean Jorge Bocobo, Luis Teodoro, Jessica Zafra, Butch Dalisay, Rafael A.S.G. Ongpin, Peachy Yamsuan, Jesselyn Garcia de la Cruz, Isagani de Castro, Manny Mogato** and more.

In the introduction to the book, editorial director **Vergel Santos** writes: "No book, to be sure, can cover it all. This one attempts to provide, one, an essential record of the People Power II in words and pictures; two, some missing links in the story to help explain its whys and wherefores; and three, some basis for understanding why it happened at all."

The sleek coffee-table book, designed by Onate & Peres, contains stunning photos from premiere photojournalists led by photo editor **Noli Yamsuan**. The featured photographers include **Manny Goloyogo, Edwin Tuyay, Sonny Camarilio, Jun Camarillo, Manny Fernandez, Norman Gorecho, Emil Mijares, Gil Nartea, Fernan Niebres, Fritizie Salem, Resti Santiago, Bernard Testa, Joseph Vidal** and many more.

IMPEACHMENT trial witness Emma Lim, DILG Secretary Jose Lina Jr., Vice President Teofisto Guingona, former President Fidel V. Ramos, former President Corazon C. Aquino, Security Bank president Rafael Simpao Jr. and ABS-CBN president Ernesto L. Lopez during the "People Power 2: Lessons & Hopes" launch

EMMA Lim having her book signed by former President Corazon C. Aquino as Vice President Teofisto Guingona looks on.

FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos, Ernie Lopez and Rafael Simpao

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

"People Power 2: Lessons & Hopes" was launched Aug. 14 at the Edsa Shrine after a Mass officiated by His Eminence **Jaime Cardinal Sin.**

The guests of honor included former Presidents **Corazon C. Aquino** and **Fidel V. Ramos**, Vice President **Teofisto Guingona** and Secretary Roco. A short launch ceremony hosted by **An Mercado-Alcantara** was held immediately with speeches given by ABS-CBN Publishing president **Ernesto Lopez** and Security Bank president **Rafael Simpao Jr.**

Interior Secretary **Jose Lina Jr.** and impeachment trial witnesses **Ruben Almadro Jasmin Banal** and **Emma Lim** also attended the launch. Also there were Presidential Spokesman **Rigoberto Tiglao**, Rep. **Benigno Aquino III**, Security Bank Foundation head **Ann Dy, Sonia Roco, Maan Hontiveros, Menchu Katigbak, Rina Jimenez-David, Lydia Castillo**, ABS-CBN Broadcasting executive vice president **Charo Santos-Concio**, ABS-CBN Broadcasting creative vice president **Enrico Santos**, and Studio 23 managing director and Narrowcast head **Manuel Quiogue.**

"People Power 2: Lessons & Hopes" is now available in all leading bookstores nationwide. Prepaid orders will get a free VCD of "The Correspondents: People Power 2." Call 631-3121.

Folk artists at heart

BY SHEER coincidence, as a writer specializing in Philippine art as a subject matter, I happen to have interviewed two of our major artists just before they died, Cenon Rivera and Ricarte Puruganan. Both professors of fine arts at the University of Santo Tomas were involved in folk art. Receiving a grant from UST, Cenon Rivera photographed our designs, both native and modern, in order to document our art and work toward a Philippine art form.

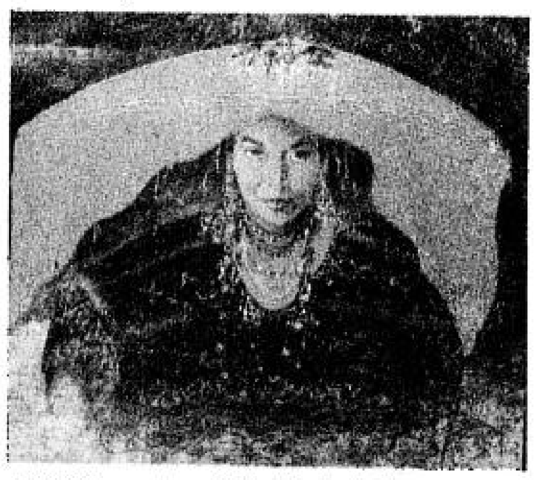
After his death, his only son had to throw out the documentation after it had gotten wet and mildewed from long storage.

Ricarte Puruganan also did his bit, writing a book, "Folk Art: The Thread to National Art," where he dissected design patterns of many of our ethnic tribes, selecting the works of some contemporary artists who unknowingly were incorporating these into their art. At his Quezon City home, he invited the younger generation of artists exhibiting folk elements in their work. He called the group "the true visual artists of the Philippines."

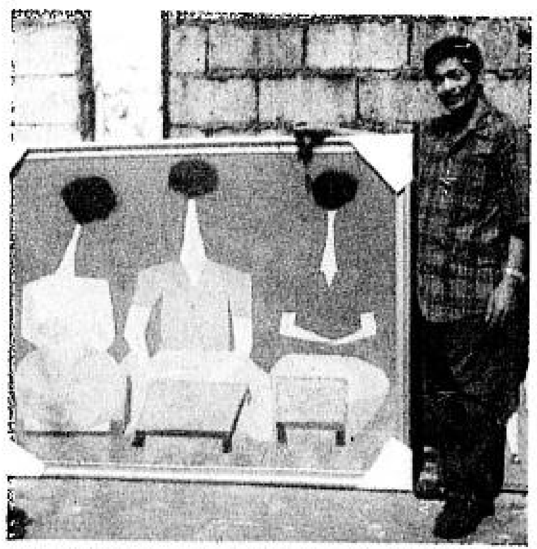
What they were trying to do was to encourage modern artists to work toward a "trademark style" or a "Philippine look" to local art, just as, say, Indonesian folk art is immediately identified by an exotic, stylized rendition of nature.

Whether such a thing will ever come to pass is anyone's guess. But there are elements in modern art that do exhibit folk roots. Take for example an exhibit to open on Sept. 15 at Gallery 318 in Las Piñas, a two-man show by folk colorists Jun Alfon and Panyong Atencia.

The colorful works of Jun Alfon portray tribal life in richly decorated patterns and motifs that flow out of the canvas into the frames, a very folkish device. Panyong Atencia, although an abstract expressionist influenced by Miro, paints the folk images of his native Laguna, such as the papier mâché angels, horses and turtles of Paete.



JUN Alfon portrays tribal life in richly decorated patterns and motifs



EPIFANIO "Panyong" Atencia, an abstract expressionist influenced by Miro, paints the folks images of his native Laguna.

Both Alfon and Atencia have folk roots. Jun Alfon grew up in Davao. While there, he came under the influence of National Artist Victorio Edades, Rivera and Purugganan's faculty colleague at UST, and became active with the Durian Artists. It was also there that he decided to paint the colorful tribes of Mindanao as his lifetime subject matter. Coming to Manila and detouring to music (playing drums in Olongapo night spots), Alfon started to seriously paint full-time in the mid-'70s, when he opened his first solo at the Davao Imperial Hotel.

Panyong Atencia is from Tanay, Rizal, the lakeshore town. He started out as a framer, but his exposure to art on a daily basis somehow rubbed off on him. Starting a framing shop with Eric Duldulao, he came under the influence of painter Tessie Duldulao. By 1992, he was already seriously painting. His wife runs a modest restaurant, Lakeview, in Tanay. Although painting in a colorful abstract idiom, his use of turtles, angels and horses are symbols of early Filipino art, which used symbols of the rain, sun, or waves, in a peculiar, stylized way. When placed closely together, these created patterns were used in baskets, jewelry and hand-woven clothing.

Both Alfon and Atencia are primitives. The fact that they did not receive formal art schooling make their folk interpretations credible and authentic. They pick up from their environment, and their vision is pure and unstinted. The influence of the West is less pronounced, and their choice of colors and combinations is exotic and true to life.

Perhaps the country's true visual ,artist is really one who picks up from his own past and his own present, not from far away, but from the here and now. In this context, Alfon and Atencia are two of the best we've got.

Jane Stangl

PADUA International, makers of sophisticated furniture sought in Europe and United States, will launch its show room at 1171 Mabini St., Ermita, Manila with an opening sale on Sept. 14-16. Made of wood (plantation mahogany) and creative combinations of wood, cowhide leather, metal, raffia, abaca and other indigenous materials, Padua International designs are consistent winner sin furniture exhibits here and abroad.

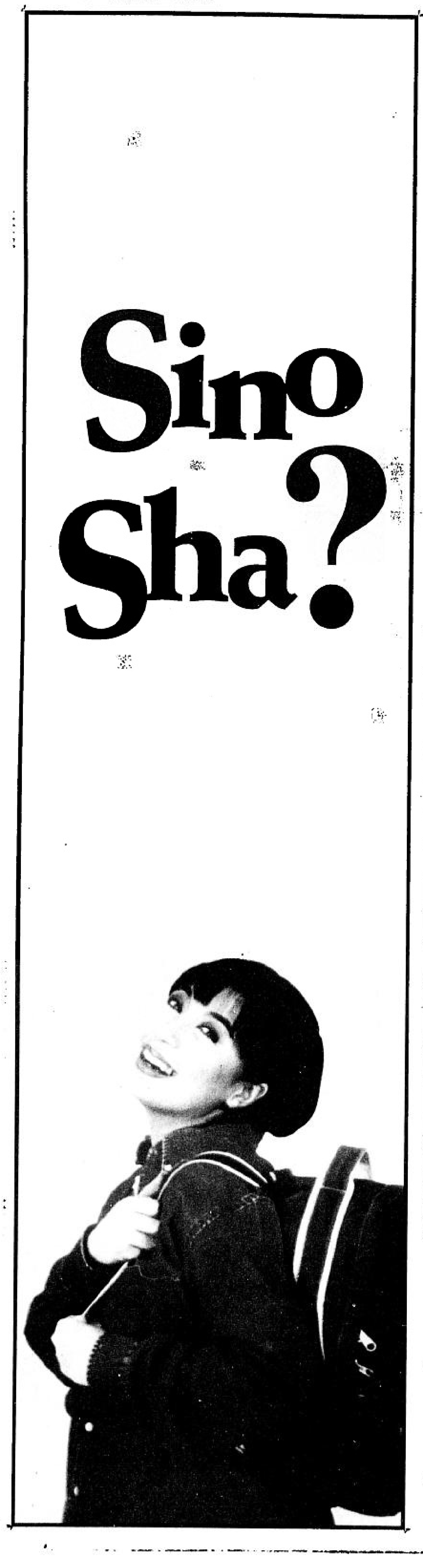
Reading tours

NATIONAL Bookstore, Anvil Publishing Inc. and the Reading Association of the Phils. celebrate Literacy Month with the following activities:

Today, at 9 p.m., representatives from the Reading Association of the Phils. will bring "Buklat Aklat," a collection of 200 award-winning foreign and Filipino children's books to the Pasig Library Learning Resource Center, and will conduct a workshop for Pasig City teachers. The group will also go to elementary public schools in Rizal and Laguna. "Buklat Aklat" aims to provide the Pinoy youth with traveling mini libraries, which are now visiting schools in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

On Sept. 15, 3 p.m., Dr. Au Reyna and Dr. Fely Padu will talk on "The Art of Storytelling" and "The Joys of Shared Reading to Parents and Children" at National Bookstore-Shangri-La.

Call Joyce Moa of National Bookstore at 631-8061 to 66 or call R.M. Galang-Monis of Anvil Publishing at 671-9235.



'Godot' waits for no one

By Mark Javier and
Guddy Chatlani

"WAITING for Godot," a play by Samuel Beckett, was staged by De La Salle University's drama club, Harlequin, recently to a packed William Shaw Theater composed of students and professionals. What made this classic drama about two male vagabonds waiting in vain was play director RJ Leyran's casting of two female leads instead.

"It was because all the members of Harlequin were female and they were quite impressive in the auditions," says Leyran. There was an English cast, which starred twin sisters Kristina and Katrina Hassaram as Gogo and Didi, Camille Enriquez as Lucky, Patricia Lee as Pozo and Bea Espiritu as the child. The Tagalog cast consisted of Michelle Arcilla and Dominique Pechuela as Didi, Giselle Go as Gogo, Jamie King as Pozo and Kristine Quimpo as the child. "Paghihintay kay Godot" was an adaptation by the late Rolando Tinio.

Both versions were exciting, irreverent and appealing. Perhaps this was due to the riveting if outlandish costume and makeup design by fashion director Larry Leviste. "I suggested the girls use jade foundation as a base finished off with calamine lotion and red crepe paper as blush-on. The director wanted the ladies to look like girls wearing and waiting in their prom night finery 40 years later. Needless to say, I had fun," says Leviste.

The all-female cast gave this well-loved Beckett play a different perspective. The 75-minute play that portrays the angst of waiting seems poignant in our country where the waiting game abounds in politics. The female cast presented the play in a funny way because women naturally are more patient than men.

While waiting for their prom dates who never show up, they peel off the layers of polite conversation to reveal brazen battle scars. But hope springs eternal for those who wait in patience.

JAMIE King as Pozo

DIRECTOR RJ Leyran (center, with moustache) poses with the cast.

CYGNET Custodio as Didi and Giselle Go as Gogo

PHOTOS BY DENNIS SABANGAN

Siya si Captain Ferry
...ang gusto kong kasama sa biyahe!

Sa ngiti pa lang,
assured ka na.
Ang kanyang pagkilos,
mabilis ngunit
maingat.

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Theater of dreams

BY LUNA GRIÑO-INOCIAN

Trumpets ties up with the Philippine Business for Social Progress to alleviate poverty in Mindanao

A CLIENT turned friend would call this a "shameless plug" and it probably is. But I am pushing 50 and have earned right and/or privilege to be shameless! So please bear with me.

There's an old saying: Never mix business with pleasure. However, in a world where production costs soar at alarming rates, this has not only become necessary but imperative. Bringing pleasure via theater and other forms of live performance means soliciting the help of the business community to survive.

OF STAGE

And for years, theater companies have wooed to the point of begging various corporations to "sponsor" (i.e. invest in) their respective productions. For a long while, only the very forward-looking with money to spare responded. They supported theater through its fledgling years, encouraging and watching as it slowly took flight. Just when theater seemed ready to get pushed out of the nest to go solo, the economy took a dive and it was back to begging for them. This time, it was even more difficult—businesses wanted value for money—and understandably so. There was little to throw on mere dreams.

But bad economy doesn't stop dreamers from dreaming—thank God! It just makes them do something about their dreams. And that usually means joining forces with other dreamers.

Visionaries

Take Trumpets. Eleven years ago, the visionaries behind the company dreamed of spreading the word of God through high-quality theater productions. Since then, it has pretty much achieved what it set out to do through its highly acclaimed shows like "Joseph The Dreamer," "First Name" and "Widows, Orphans and Wildebeests."

It has also been dreaming of bringing one of its original musicals to Broadway or West End. Trumpets isn't really far from fulfilling that dream, too. Its adaptation of the CS Lewis classic, "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe," is close to hitting the international market, sanctioned by CS Lewis' very own stepson, Douglas Gresham, who has dubbed it "the best theater version of my father's work done anywhere in the world."

"Little Mermaid," which is running to sold-out audiences, is also a dream toward that direction. Audie Gemora, Butch Jimenez and the board of directors of Trumpets, have taken that leap of faith to produce a play that would be as dazzling, entertaining and inspiring as any play on Broadway.

But all that would not have been possible without their business partners—the Unilevers and the PLDTs and the Pioneer Allianzes and the Columbia Candies and the other companies and establishments too numerous to list here—that have assisted not only Trumpets' productions financially but other theater offerings as well. We thank God for the dreamers in their ranks.

Theater for a cause

Yet another one of these is Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) headed by PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan as chair and Ma. Luisa Perez Rubio as president, with a membership that includes corporations like San Miguel, PLDT, Nestlé, the Lopez Group of Companies, Pilipinas Shell, etc. PBSP aims to make the business sector become good corporate citizens and, in the past 31 years, has provided financial, educational and technical support to over 4,400 projects, that means more than P1.6 billion in funds allocated and over 2.2 million Filipino lives changed for the better. During an international business leader's forum, the Prince of Wales remarked that the PBSP could claim to be one of the most sustainable and successful national NGOs in the world.

TRUMPETS' Butch Jimenez and Audie Gemora

MANNY Pangilinan and Ma. Luisa Perez Rubio of PBSP

"But there's still so much to be done," says Pangilinan, "and PBSP is dedicated to the sole purpose of making life good for all, most especially the marginalized."

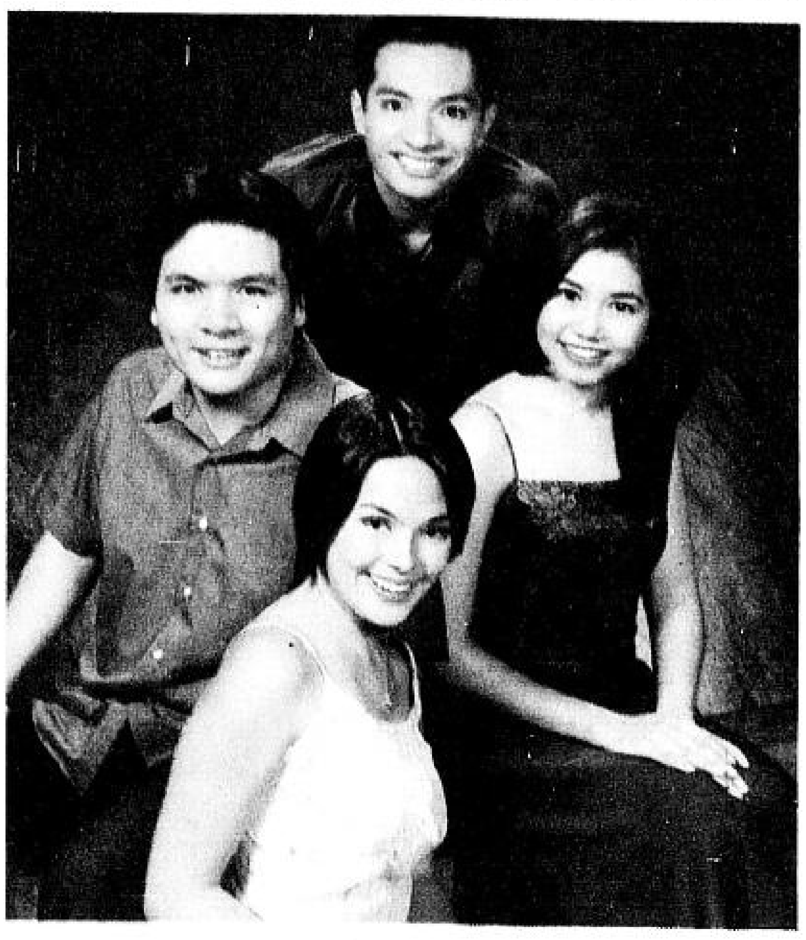
Both Trumpets and PBSP may have their own separate dreams. But in this case, they have come together to make life better for children in Mindanao. Facts show that only three out of 10 Mindanao students finish elementary school. One main reason for this is because schoolhouses are not accessible. Children 5-10 years old have to walk or travel over 10-20 km just to get to the nearest schoolhouse.

Through "Little Mermaid," Trumpets will try to raise the funds needed to build one or more schoolhouses in Mindanao. PBSP will, in turn, initiate and implement the construction of the schoolhouses and insure it is effectively managed.

"Alleviating poverty is a tall order," shares PBSP president Rubio. "But working together, we are a formidable force and we can make a difference."

Hopefully, this partnership of Trumpets and PBSP will result in dreams coming true for children in Mindanao. And, if fairy tales like "Little Mermaid" do come true, it may just be that the future president of the Philippines will get educated in that schoolhouse. If that happens, it is because there are dreamers like Trumpets and PBSP who care. And if people truly care, it isn't a wild dream that someday, we may all "live happily ever after."

End of shameless plug but hopefully not of the dream. We do need more dreamers not just for better theater but also for a better world.


"LITTLE Mermaid" cast (clockwise, from top) Noel Rayos, Carol Banawa, KC Concepcion and Jeff Arcilla

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'The Little Mermaid,' 'The Lark' and, to some extent, 'Hedwig and the Angry Inch,' show contrasting images of the woman

"HEDWIG" director Bobby Garcia and actor Jake Macapagal
PHOTO: BETOY JOHNSON

Ladies in search of light

THE THEATER industry has been busy since July, with plays opening one after the other. Expect this welcome trend to continue up to Christmas.

"The Little Mermaid," produced by Trumpets, book and lyrics by Jaime del Mundo and Luna Griño-Inocian, directed by Del Mundo.

Jewel (Carol Banawa, alternated by Dianne de la Fuente), the bubbly, impulsive, cocky sea princess of "The Little Mermaid," has matured a lot in Trumpets' restaging of its big-budget musical. And her quest has been more defined, too. While her love for the human prince Christian (Noel Rayos, alternated by Jeff Arcilla) is still fervent, she has her priorities straight. Her real quest is for an immortal soul that can enable her to love someone else selflessly.

REVIEWS

Credit this clarification to playwrights Del Mundo and Griño-Inocian, who reportedly did major rewrites to make sure that the basic gospel message of redemption does not get submerged under the waves of production design ingenuity. The impressive sets and costumes still create a convincing undersea world where seahorses and crabs prance about and mermaid choirs lure hapless sailors to their doom. To emphasize the dark nature of this world, a lot of the dance numbers and the cutesy antics of the more endearing creatures were cut. The very first scene hints of the original fall of Nicodemus (Carlo Orosa)—disturbing, but not too gory.

Unlike last year's inadvertent ambiguous love triangle, the dialogue and the performances made it clear that Jewel's one-sided affection for Christian is doomed from the start because he is in love with Sapphire (KC Concepcion with Cathza Azanza alternating). It made her ascent to the afterlife sweeter and her joy at the wedding more credible.

Concepcion's highly awaited first stage appearance was marked by a strong presence and a nononsense straightforwardness that certainly elevated her princess from the usual wallflower stereotype. Her facial expression and delivery of lines, though, lacked emotions in certain scenes. Overall, it was a modest debut.

"Hedwig and the Angry Inch," produced by Atlantis, written by John Cameron Mitchell, music and lyrics by Stephen Trask, directed by Bobby Garcia.

This short adult concert-musical runs for just two hours, but it raises a lot of serious issues about sexuality, happiness, freedom, parent-child relationships and the meaning of life. The ending, which closes on a happy note, doesn't totally resolve the questions, but asks a whole lot more.

It will take time (and perhaps repeated viewing) to plumb through the layers of Jake Macapagal's Hedwig, a down-on-his-luck East Berlin transvestite rock singer. The botched sex operation leaving him with an "inch" actually stands for the dilemma that scars and strengthens his humanity. He rants at the world one moment, laughs at his problems the next, then examines his life with an honesty only a very few would match. The music of his indifferent band, seated behind him throughout, adds power and color to this series of monologues. Garcia also flashes videos of illustrations on the wall, satirically emphasizing the point, but with enough tongue-in-cheek to lighten the levity.

The most moving scenes are those of Hedwig's relationship with this male singer, now a superstar, whom he mentored and who dumped him because of his "inch." Macapagal truly shines, his singing showing the fragile vulnerability now risking itself for this "true love."

Also looming over Hedwig is his other shadow, "husband" Yitzhak who has a big chip on his shoulder. This hulking, bearded, grunting, discontented back-up singer is supposed to hint of the other shades in Hedwig's colorful past. Anna Jalosjos, who does a stunning job hitting the high notes and looks the part in makeup, does what she can; but as written, Yitzhak is still a blank. His character is not that sufficiently intriguing to involve the audience in his drama.

Fortunately, Jalosjos saves the part. In the surprise ending, when the characters in drag reveal their off-stage sexuality, the transformation is remarkable. It adds a fitting period to the play's message on the illusive, malleable nature of gender.

"The Lark," produced by Actors Actors Inc., written by Jean Anouilh, directed by Bart Guingona.

Was Joan of Arc a saint or was she a master, if well intentioned, manipulator?

Anouilh does not cut his heroine any slack. While the voices of the saints are endlessly mentioned, this play does not succumb to any miraculous flashing of lights or battle scenes where the war is won by divine intervention to the cheering of the crowd. Joan's origin and rise to power and mythic proportions is portrayed as a dispassionate examination of an extraordinary girl who surpassed the rigid rules and societal conventions of her time. Considering that she lived in the Middle Ages, hers was quite an achievement.

On cue, Lara Fabregas' Joan is no misty-eyed mystic, but a rational lady determined to get what she wants, someone who wraps churchmen, kings and soldiers around her finger.

Scenes flash from a timeless present where Joan's trial is held, toward her past, even toward her future. The present is marked by the stage, with a production design illustrating a medieval church in decline. Fighting this downfall is Raymond Bagatsing's stylish yet sinister Inquisitor. The timelessness is emphasized by the discourses of a sympathetic bishop and a seasoned politician. Chelu Marquez and Michael Williams, who play them respectively, actually steal the thunder. In the future, we hope to see more of Marquez, who gives strong support, and deeper, more complex roles for Williams, beyond the comedy-musicals he has been doing lately.

More than just the pro and con symbols for Joan's sainthood, Marquez's kind cleric-who-has-something-to-hide and Williams' realistic statesman are the polarities of humanity's unresolved, age-old issues about idealism, belief, and religion. They parry and argue—with Joan's fiery, questioning, revolutionary spirit in-between.

Cora Llamas

Three plays on the burden of leadership

BY CORA LLAMAS

MOTHERS, raise your children very carefully. One of them just might grow up to be a national leader—and screw the fate of the Philippines.

This is the main point of Tanghalang Pilipino's latest remounting of "Camino Real," Nick Joaquin's depressing probe into why Emilio Aguinaldo lost that one moment when he could have secured our country a better place in history.

REVIEWS

By July 1898, Aguinaldo's troops had practically taken over Manila. They were in control of Malate, Singalong, Tondo and Paco. Dewey's American fleet still kept to the bay, and it was only a matter of time before the Spanish-controlled Manila would fall into Aguinaldo's hands. But he tarried and his hemming and hawing proved disastrous. The Americans took over Manila from the Spaniards and later drove the Filipino forces away.

As Joaquin's book, "A Question of Heroes," puts it, had Aguinaldo taken Malacañang before a single US soldier landed on Filipino soil, "His position would have been impregnable. He would have been talking to [the Americans] from the eminence of a fait accompli. The Manifest Destiny would have been his, not theirs."

Set designer Ricardo Cruz converts the titular Camino Real, the crucial road that runs from Aguinaldo's hometown of Cavite to Manila, into a pathway into time. A long horizontal platform at stage center transforms into political headquarters, crossroad of decision, and the way to ruthless self-examination.

Director Chris Millado paces the flashbacks rapidly, adding more colorful scenes at the curtained background. Act One has Aguinaldo, now hiding in Palanan, remembering his glory days and ends in his capture. Act Two has the fallen leader on a boat to the now US-held Manila; his jailer and captor, Capt. Lazaro Segovia (Roeder), personifies the disillusioned Filipino foot soldier and Aguinaldo's conscience.

Segovia can't be faulted for his resentment. His accusation/ echoes the cries hurled at many leaders throughout generations: "Why? How could you fail?"

How Segovia comes to know so much about Aguinaldo's private life, especially his inner thoughts and family trauma, remains baffling. So is his reconciliatory show of respect at the end. After one masterful verbal lash after another, no bonding of affection was established between the two men, making his final salute hollow.

Then again, there is very little to respect in this Aguinaldo, who was too trusting and awed of the Americans. He simply never outgrew his inner child. You'd have to see the play to discover your own gut reaction as a Filipino to the final revelation.

Casting a student actor in the lead was a gamble. Froilan projected the right amount of youthful inexperience and brashness, but could not cope with the emotional complexity. It did work in one poignant scene, though. "Aguinaldo" changes into a modern street boy selling Filipino flags, amid flashbacks of the revolution. Then and now, national glory very much remains a little boy's dream.

'Life is a Dream'

IF only our real-life founding father had the same courage and destiny of Segismundo, the fictional brute-turned-prince in Pedro Calderon de la Barca's "La Vida Es Sueño (Life Is a Dream)."

Ronan Capinding gives a powerful performance, backed by an excellent supporting cast, in what is probably Tanghalang Ateneo's best production in recent years. The success of the entire play rests on the actor's capability to convince the audience that his character can reform—and rule a kingdom with justice. And it is a tough call.

Segismundo is literally a hungry, drooling, beast-like creature who hits any man or sexually assaults any woman he sees.

Blame it on bitterness and rage. Segismundo has been imprisoned since birth by his ruler-father Basilio (Ony de Leon) who is scared of prophecies that one day his son would overthrow him and rule his kingdom with brutality. This act of prevention turns into a self-fulfilling prophecy. Given his one chance to play his rightful role, the temporarily freed but still seething Segismundo murders and destroys on a grand scale.

Basilio gets away with his ploy by making his son think that the momentary visit into a real kingdom is a dream. Hence, the title. Director Ricky Abad complements this by placing his drama in a dream-like dimension. Garish red and black colors, enhanced by purple nobility, swirl in a fluid, constantly moving stage peopled by characters dressed in something straight out of baroque decline, Oriental hegemony and science-fiction weirdness. The imprisoned Segismundo uses his shackles, linked to the roof, to swing like an angry ape.

In preserving his dark tone throughout, Abad makes the rare moments of humanity (especially Segimundo's gradual change) into glimmering gems of drama. The redemption is painful, excruciatingly slow, but long lasting. The many decisions to forgive those who wronged him and hold back his sword are not easy, preachy palliatives.

Neither is the ending. Unknowingly, the now changed King Segismundo makes the same mistakes of nobility: sacrificing the individual for state interests. The seeds of discord may well grow into the same cycle. And in the final unforgettable dream sequence, Segismundo is reminded that he must always keep his Beast in check.

'The Winter's Tale'

IN A DARING, effective move, director Jose(fina) Estrella significantly cuts down the reconciliation text of Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale." The finale, wherein estranged ruler parents reunite with long-lost princely heirs and former comrades renew their friendship, is in fact powerful because of its silence. One wrong word—or wrongly delivered line—would have ruined the mood. Especially when the main character rejoins with his late wife, against all logic.

There's barely a false note in this Dulaang UP (DUP) production. Estrella weaves the Bard's tale amid the images of the seasons and the changes of the heart: Winter and spring to evoke loneliness, decline and death on one hand, and vitality and life on the other.

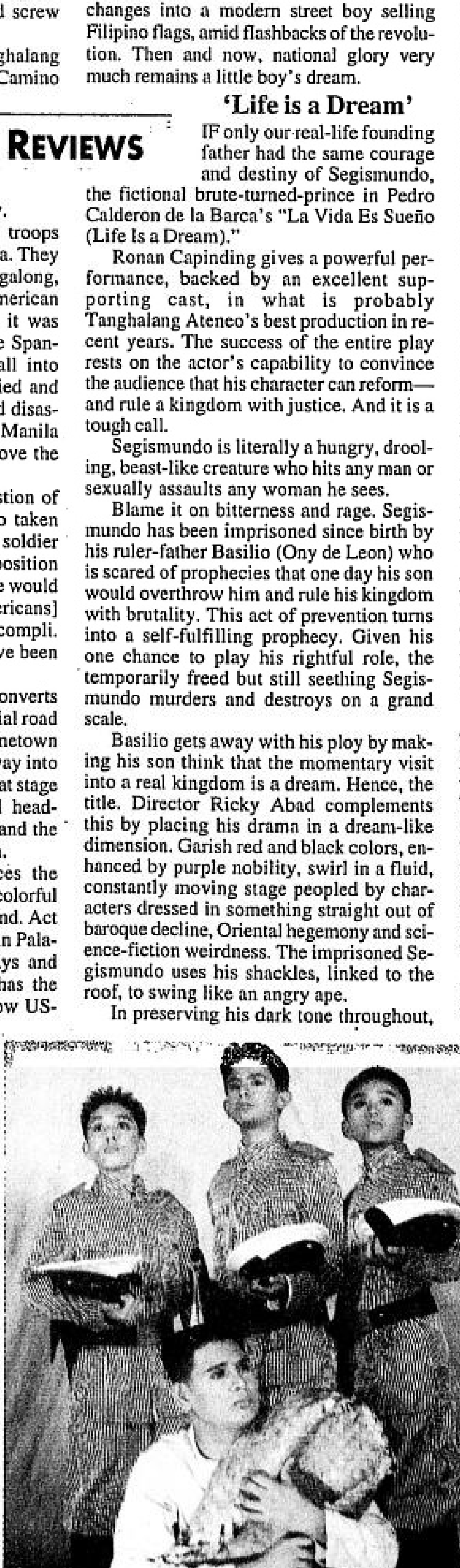
Grim black, its morbidity occasionally emphasized by a flash of raging red, rules the mind and eventually the kingdom of Leontes (Ebong Jopson). Shifting panels evoking mirrors, seen solely during the first act, hint that Leontes' suspicions of an affair between his wife Hermione (Gilette Sandico) and best friend king Polixenes (Mitoy Sta. Ana) are just his imagination. Later, as the poor queen is subjected to a mock trial, the bleak white of winter covers the stage in reproach.

Act One ends on a disturbing note with Hermione dead and her newborn daughter Perdita kept from the king by a loyal subject. It could have been more disturbing had the visuals and audio made us see and hear at least a shadow of the rampaging bear, rather than the snicker-triggering tagline "Exeunt [character]. Chased by a bear."

Act Two explodes in the fiery, blazing adrenaline of Polixenes' sea-coast kingdom Bohemia years later. The stage is awash with light, somehow brightened by the inhabitants' modest costumes of brown and white. Perdita, raised as a young shepherd girl (played with sensuous innocence by Amalia Meloto), is in love with Prince Florizel (Ricky Baizas). Naturally, the king, not knowing that this is his best friend's daughter, objects to the match. The lovers' answer, aided by a few well-meaning friends, leads to the reunion.

Enhancing the various emotional turns are the unobtrusive entrances of singers singing an appropriate melancholic or subjugated joy at the right moment.

Overall, DUP's "A Winter's Tale" is a subtly moving, quiet homage to the seasons of life: love and hatred, sorrow and happiness, defeat and triumph.

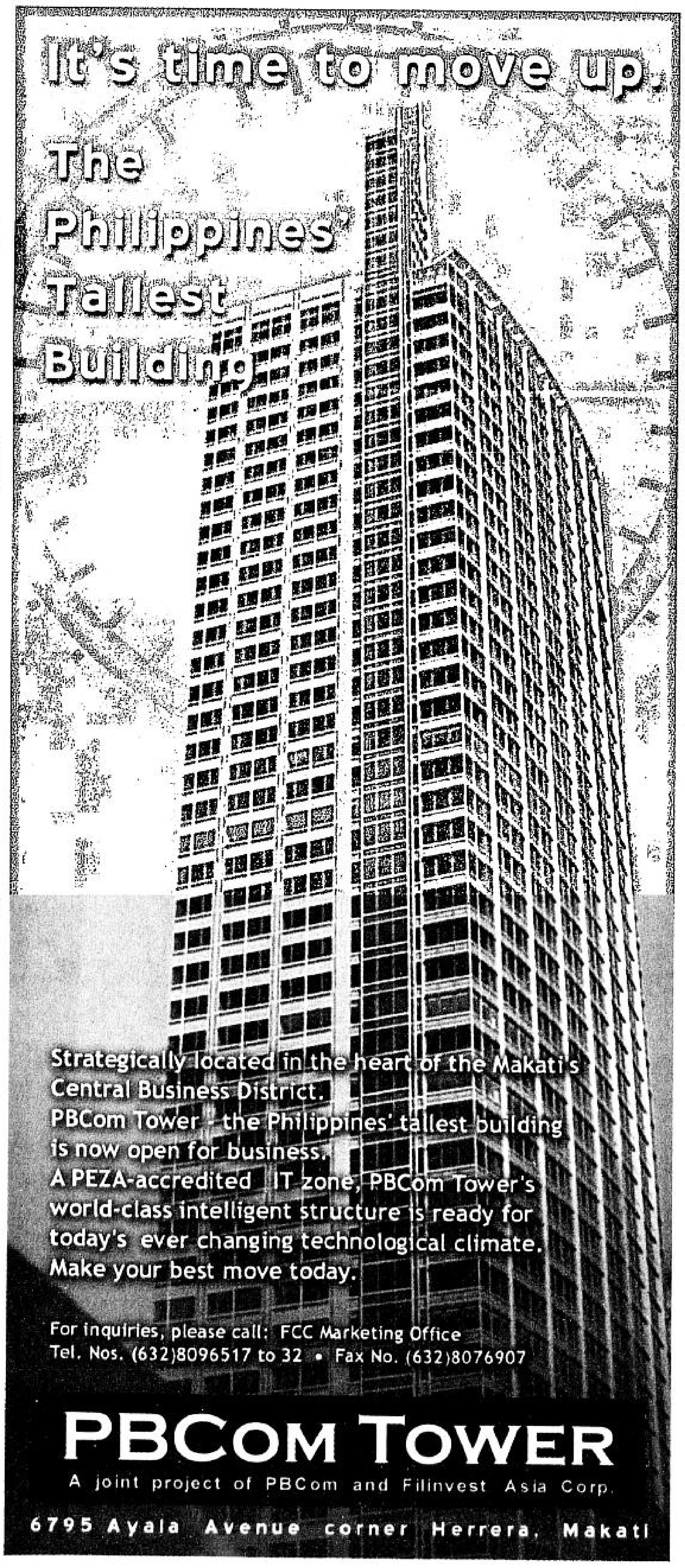

A SCENE from "El Camino Real"

PINOY MUSIC TEACHER GETS NEW YORK PRIZE

THE 2001 Bronx Prize for Musical Pedagogy was awarded to Filipino violinist Joey Corpus for his outstanding achievements in the field of violin teaching. The award was made possible by a generous donation from Margaret Rosen and presented by the City Island Music Society. The award ceremony took place at the Le Refuge B&B on City Island, New York. Mr. Corpus' students include internationally renowned soloist and best-selling recording artist Lara St. John, Naumburg and Washington International winner Jennifer Frautschi, Montreal International winner Ming Feng Hsin, international soloist Katharine Gowers, MET Opera associate concertmaster Wen Qian and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra assistant concertmaster Kyu Young Kim.

Dr. Holmes in Cebu

AYALA Center Cebu with Anvil Publishing Inc. will host a lecture and book-signing session by clinical psychologist and sex-advice columnist Dr. Margarita Go Singco Holmes on Sept. 4 at 5 p.m. at the new Ayala Entertainment Center. Highlighted are 12 best-selling books, including "Life, Love and Lust," "Passion, Power, Pleasure," "A Different Kind of Love," "Bad, Bold and Brazen" and "Wild, Wicked and Wonderful."



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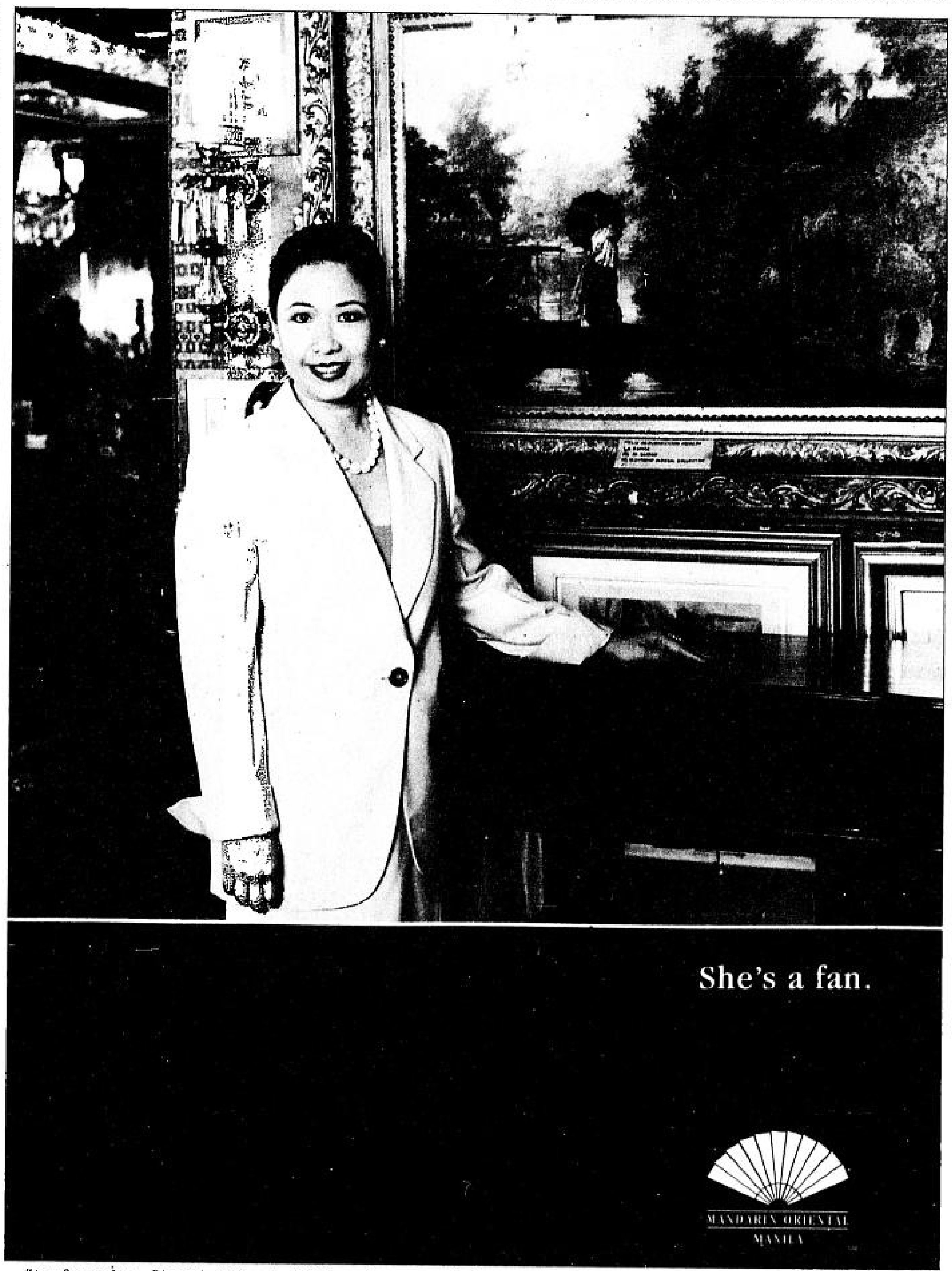

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Suspense and drama in the Philippine-British concert in Cebu

By Pablo A. Tariman

CEBU CITY—Last Thursday night, as the country's TV audiences were glued on *l'affair* Rosebud and lover boy John Campos (this dashing police officer is from this city), music lovers in the Queen City of the South were looking forward to their first live E Minor Cello Concerto and Enigma Variations by Sir Edward Elgar and by no less than the composer's compatriot, Adrian Brown, conducting the Cebu-based Peace Philharmonic Philippines (PPP).

But less than three hours before the gala night at the Cebu Plaza Hotel grand lobby, PPP artistic director Ingrid Sala Santamaria was greeted by the sight of a wobbly and sickly British conductor who said with a faint voice, "I am sorry Ingrid, I don't think I can conduct tonight."

With barely a couple of hours before performance, it was too late to even call a last-minute substitute from Manila. Santamaria dashed to the elevator down to the hotel lobby and conferred with cello soloist Renato Lucas and the PPP faculty and made the decision: some faculty members and orchestra members just have to make their instant debut as conductor to save the concert.

French horn player Leopoldo Lopez was assigned to conduct the National Anthem and "God Save the Queen." Buenaventura's symphonic poem, "Youth," went to clarinet player Roberto del Rosario. Bassoon player Ariel Perez gingerly accepted to conduct the last two movements of the Elgar cello concerto (the first two movements were too tough to conduct on instant notice) while violinist Jeffrey Solares was assigned to Variations on an Original Theme (Enigma).

An unruffled Santamaria announced Brown's condition and wished for the conductor's quick recovery.

RENATO Lucas

But as it turned out, the concert went on without a hitch (except that some Elgar fanatics felt bad not hearing the first two movements of the Elgar concerto).

The PPP under clarinet player Del Rosario turned in a well-defined Buenaventura symphonic poem and violinist Jeffrey Solares was able to bring out the inherent individual portraits of characters who inspired the variations (the piece was a musical sketch of 14 friends and acquaintances of Elgar). Cicero de Souza, a Brazilian music lover seated on the front seat, congratulated Solares for a seamless Elgar minus the composer's compatriot.

Focused soloist

But all ears were on the Elgar concerto, which started on the third movement with soloist Renato Lucas and bassoon player Ariel Perez conducting. But on the first few measures, Lucas captured the melancholy of the piece and played as though his life depended on that performance (he was restless before the concert). The adagio part totally silenced the crowd. With the piece ending in the *allegro ma non troppo* finale, both soloist and orchestra got the loudest cheers in the concert. Lucas was a very focused soloist and he deserved the acclaim.

"I just have to do what I have to do," Lucas told the INQUIRER when confronted by a brand-new conductor just a couple of hours before the performance. "But playing the first two movements with a new conductor would be too risky for a last-minute conductor so I settled for the last two movements. But I must say that I was already very impressed with the PPP in our last three rehearsals with Mr. Brown. This orchestra has a lot of potentials."

Playing Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance overture, the PPP proved it was ready for Elgar as it had been with its earlier takes on Bach, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky.

But as of press time, as the orchestra was preparing for a performance in nearby Dumaguete City, conductor Brown seemed to be recovering.

A finalist of the Karajan Conductor's Competition and a protege of eminent British conductor Sir Adrian Boult, Brown regaled Lucas and this writer with stories of his teacher and his teacher's connections with Elgar. "I am sorry this had to happen," he told PPP artistic director Santamaria in his sick bed.

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LIFESTYLE Books

National Book Awards 2000 finalists announced

THE MANILA Critics Circle recently announced the finalists for the 2000 National Books Awards. Dr. Ophelia Alcantara Dimalanta, MCC chair, said the winners will be announced on Sept. 8. The awards ceremonies begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Function Room B, Megatrade Hall, 5/F SM Megamall B, Mandaluyong City.

The finalists are:

Anthology: "The Likhaan Book of Philippine Criticism, 1992-1997," edited by J. Neil C. Garcia (University of the Philippines Press); "The Writers' Wives," edited by Narita Manuel Gonzalez (Anvil Publishing); and "Intsik: An Anthology of Chinese Filipino Writing," edited by Caroline S. Hau (Anvil).

Art: "Selyo: Philippine History in Postage Stamps" by Reynaldo Gamboa Alejandro and Arminda Vallejo Santiago (Anvil); and "Ang Kiukok: Deconstructing Despair" by Alfredo Roces (Metropolitan Museum of Manila).

Biography/Autobiography: "Seven in the Eye of History," edited by Asuncion David-Maramba (Anvil); "Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: Continuing the Legacy of

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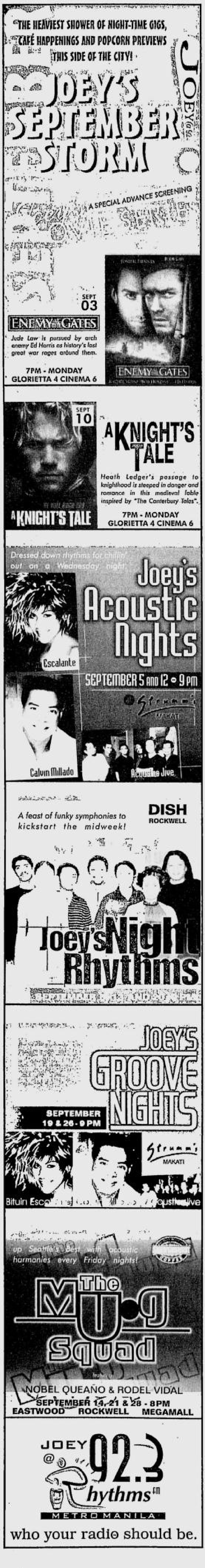

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Jude Law is pursued by arch enemy Ed Harris as history's last great war rages around them.
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Heath Ledger's passage to knighthood is steeped in danger and romance in this medieval fable inspired by "The Canterbury Tales".
7PM - MONDAY
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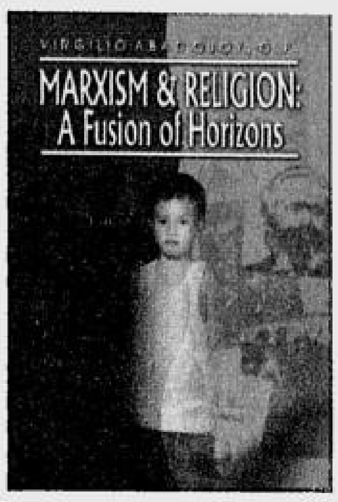
Shower of books at 12th Philippine Bookfair

UST to launch 40 books

J. Neil C. Garcia
Kaluluwa
New and Selected Poems



MGA PANGARAP AT PANGITAIN
abdon m. balde jr.

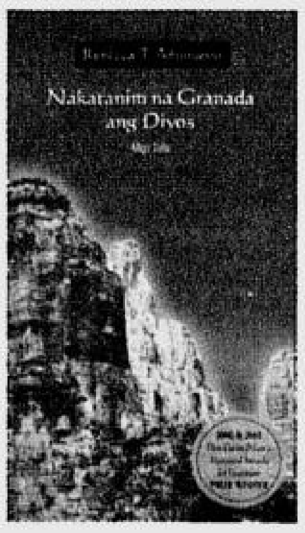
THE UST Publishing House (USTPH) will release some 40 new titles during the 12th Philippine Bookfair at SM Megamall. The book-launching is scheduled on Sept. 9, 4 p.m., at the Function Room B of the SM Megatrade Hall.

The new titles include:

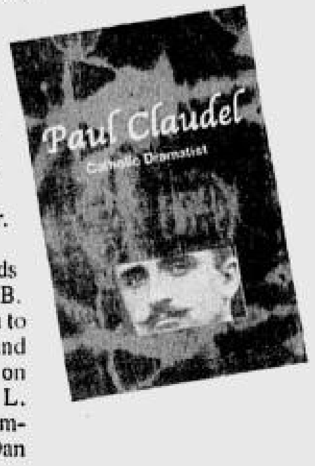
Theology and philosophy: "Marxism and Religion: A Fusion of Horizons" (Virgilio A. Ojoy, O.P.); "Re-evaluation of the Language of the Grace of God (Jose Antonio E. Aureada, O.P.); "Mary, Seat of Wisdom: A Contemporary Reflection" (Roland D. Mactal, O.P.); "Everyday Sense of Existence in a Day" (Fr. Jan Sareno); "The Favor of the Gods: Essays in Filipino Religious Thought and Behavior" (Dr. Florentino H. Hornedo); "Emerging Theological Themes" (edited by Fausto B. Gomez, O.P. and Prof. Benedict V. Reyes); "Gandhi, the Model Ascetic" (Vincent Chilappilly, N.C.B.S.); and "Karunungan 18: Journal of Philosophy" (edited by Dr. Alfredo Co and the Philippine Academy of Philosophical Research).

Literature and literary studies: "Balagtas and His Nationalistic Literature" (Dr. Johanna G. Hashim); "Life is a Stage" (Dr. Rustica C. Carpio); and "Paul Claudel: Catholic Dramatist" (Dr. Milagros G. Tanlayco);

Creative writing: "Sintang Cayanacan: Dalawampung Tula ng Pag-ibig ni Diosdado Macapagal" (edited by Erli Mendoza and Michael Coroza); "Karugtong: Ilang Paglalaro sa Kathang Isip ni Pepe Rizal: Mga Dula Tungkol sa Kasaysayan" (Jose Victor Z. Torres); "Light from the Old Arch" (Dr. Abercio V. Rotor); "To the Vestal of Ellis Island with Love and Other Essays (Dr. Elena P. Polo); "The Treasures of Lamon Bay: A Novel" (Dr. Frank Tejada); "Qidarat: A Novel of Mindanao": "The City is in the Heart and Other Essays" (Dr. Anacleta Encarnacion); "Tracks Without Giants: Poems" (Ramil Gulle); "Shadow Boxing and Headphones: Poems and Essays" (Lourd de Veyra); "Nakatanim na Granada: Mga Tula" (Rebecca Añonuevo); "Pangarap at Pangitain" (Abdon M. Balde Sr.); "Vital Flow: Essays" (Erma Cuizon); and "Kaluluwa: New and Selected Poems" (J. Neil Garcia).



History, biography and culture: "Ideas and Ideals: Essays in Philippine Cognitive History" (Dr. Florentin H. Hornedo); "Fray Domingo de Salazar, O.P., First Bishop of the Philippines" (Lucio Gutierrez, O.P.); and "Apples and Ampalaya" (Augusto V. de Viana).



Medicine and bioethics: "Forensic Medicine" (Dr. Teresita R. Sanchez); and "Justice, Patient's Rights, Psychoethics" (edited by Fausto B. Gomez, O.P. and Dr. Anniela Yu-Soliven).

Economics: "Hanapbuhay 2001" (Dr. Isabel Janette V. Loanzon).

Textbooks and handbooks: "Towards Christian Social Involvement" (Henelida B. Onal and Celso M. Nierra); "Introduction to Philosophy" (Dr. Claro R. Ceniza and Romualdo E. Abulad, S.V.D.); "Notes on Nutritional Chemistry" (Cecilia L. Bahrami); and "English Handbook: Grammar Made Easy" (Cecilia R. Lana and Dan Pinto).

Introduction to PHILOSOPHY
Philippine Coral Reefs
A Sea of Stories

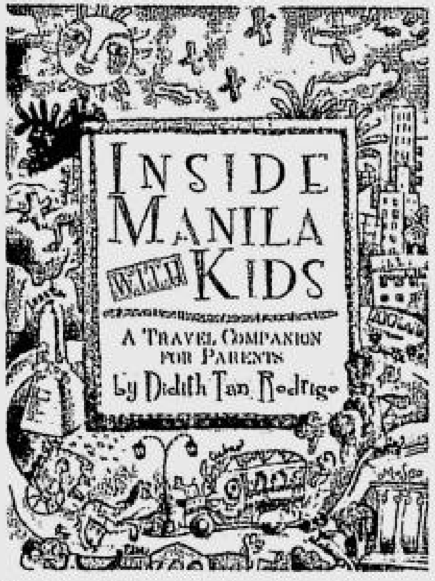
Bookmark showcase

FOR THE 12th Philippine Bookfair, Bookmark showcases its recently launched titles.

"A Life Shaped by Music" is a tribute to the gift of music and poetry in the lives of the Philippine Madrigal Singers and their founder and choirmaster—Andrea Veneracion. The book chronicles the choir's history from their first performance in 1963 to its international breakthrough concert in 1969 at the New York Lincoln Center. "Cuaresma," edited by Gilda Cordero-Femando and Fernando Zialcita, documents the variety of beliefs and practices of Filipinos during Lent. "A Guide to the Birds of the Philippines" is the long-awaited field guide to Philippine birds published by the Oxford University Press. "The Zero Hour" vividly recounts one of the great untold stories of World War II, as seen through the eyes of Gen. Basilio Valdes, a good friend, loyal soldier and devoted doctor to Commonwealth President Manuel Quezon. "Key Conservation Sites in the Philippines" presents important information on the state of the Philippine environment and features a directory of important bird areas with maps for easy location of bird species. "Philippine Coral Reefs" underscores the need to conserve Philippine coral reefs and compiles observations of life forms found on coral reefs around the Philippines.

"A Sea of Stories—Tales from Sulu" by Carla Pacis features five charming and sentimental stories that speak of the people and animals living in Sulu.

Children's books from Tahanan



TAHANAN Books for Young Readers proudly announces eight new books at this year's Philippine Bookfair, Sept. 1-9 at the Megatrade Hall, 5/F Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. The books are available for viewing at the Tahanan booth (near Bookmark).

Tahanan offers history lovers "Supremo: The Story of Andres Bonifacio," Sylvia Mendez Ventura's full-length biography of the Philippine patriot, with illustrations by Edgardo "Egai" Fernandez. "Supremo" is the companion volume to "Indio Bravo: The Story of Jose Rizal" (Tahanan Books, 1997). Both books are written for high school readers and adults.

Out of print for a long time, "The Great Malayan," the classic and award-winning biography of Jose Rizal by the late National Artist for Historical Literature Carlos Quirino, is once more available in a popular paperback edition that now includes 24 pages of photos.

Tahanan also ushers in "The Flying Friar: Patron Saints and Their Amazing Lives," written by Joseph V. Landy, S.J. with portraits by Frances C. Alcaraz. In this book young people are invited to meet the real heroes of the Church and retrace their miraculous journey from everyday life to sainthood. The anthology includes 26 patron saints, including Pedro Calungsod, patron saint of the Filipino youth.

On Sept. 4, Tahanan Books for Young Readers and Bookmark Inc. will host the book launch of "Inside Manila with Kids: A Travel Companion for Parents" by Didith Tan Rodrigo from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Conference Room A, Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall. Rodrigo, a travel bug and parent, scoured Metro Manila looking for the best the city has to offer adventure-seeking families. Written for residents and tourists alike, her book explores must-see places—from Fort Santiago to Chinatown to the teeming shopping malls of Alabang—and things to do to get kids hooked into science, history, culture and sports. Sprinkled with the charming vignettes of Robert A. Alejandro, this handy travel guide comes with maps, photos, a short history of the Philippines and lists of establishment.

On Sept. 5, Tahanan hosts a book-signing from 3-5 p.m. for "Maya Maya JumbOlaya: The Big Bad Bully Bird," the fourth book in the publisher's I-Like-Myself series. Written by Gidget Jimenez and illustrated by Pepper Roxas, this book for beginning readers is about a bird with an attitude. Super-selfish Maya Maya JumbOlaya discovers that she needs friends to stay alive and, best of all, to be happy.

On Sept. 8, Tahanan Books will host a book-signing of the dual English and Filipino editions of Hans Christian Andersen's "Once Upon a Time (Noong Unang Panahon)." Retold in English by Palanca first prizewinner Fran Ng and illustrated in exquisite full-color acrylics by Arnel Mirasol, the tales were translated into Filipino by award-winning writer Rene O. Villanueva. This groundbreaking collection of 10 Andersen tales is available in separate English and Filipino editions. Mirasol's original illustrations will be on exhibit on Sept. 8, 9 and 10 at the Crucible Gallery, 4/F Building A, SM Megamall.

The public is invited. Call Redge Abos of Tahanan Books at 895-5023/36.

Ateneo to launch new books and electronic titles

Grass Roots and Cadre
CORRUPTION
History and Society in the Novels of Ramon Muzones
Ma. Cecilia Locsin-Nava
MAGOSAHA
People of Power

THE ATENEO de Manila University Press will launch new titles as well as e-books on Sept. 8, 1-5 p.m., Function Room A, Megatrade Hall, 5/F SM Megamall Building B.

Among the new books are three poetry collections—"Tinig ng Darating at Iba pang Tula" by Teo Baylen, "Damdamin: Mga Piling Tula" by Iñigo Ed. Regalado and "Sa Tabi ng Dagat at Iba pang Tula" by Ildefonso Santos—and a novel, "Sampagitang Walang Bango" by Iñigo Ed. Regalado.

The humanities and social science titles tackle topics that range from political culture to sociology, from art and literary criticism to political economy, from history to cultural studies. These books are: "Grass Roots and Cadre in the Protest Movement" by Vincent Boudreau; "Corruption, The Boom and Bust of East Asia" edited by J. Edgardo Campos; "Leaving the Priesthood: A Close Reading of Priestly Departures" by Emmanuel Fernandez; "Image to Meaning: Essays in Philippine Art" by Alice Guillermo; "People of Power: A Philippine Worldview of Spirit Encounters" by John P. McAndrew; "History and Society in the Novels of Ramon Muzones" by Ma. Cecilia Locsin-Nava; "Magosaha: An Ethnography of the Tawi-Tawi Sama Dilaut" by H. Arlo Nimmo; "The Philippine Revolution of 1896: Ordinary Lives in Extraordinary Times" edited by Florentino Rodao and Felice Noelle Rodriguez; and "National/Transnational: Subject Formation and Media in and on the Philippines" by Rolando B. Tolentino.

The following will be launched as e-books: "Man of Earth," edited by Gémino Abad and Edna Zapanta-Manlapaz, "Nobelang Tagalog" by Soledad Reyes and "Versus," edited by Alfrredo Navarro Salanga and Esther M. Pacheco.

Sale at National Bookstore

THE MOST awaited annual Cut-Price Book Sale of National Bookstore is slated until Sept. 16. Avail of up to 50 percent discounts on all books both on credit and cash purchases.

All-time fiction bestsellers on sale include "The Lost World" of Michael Crichton (P49.50), Sidney Sheldon's "The Sky is Falling" (P299), John Grisham's "The Brethren" (P188.50), John Le Carre's "Single and Single" (P111.50), and Jude Deveraux's "The Legend" (P9.75).

Marked-down personal well-being books include "Powerful Prayers" by Larry King (P458.50), "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff and It's All Small Stuff" by Richard Carlson (P297.50), "In the Meantime" by Iyanla Vanzant (P283.50), "Girlfriend's Guide to Toddlers" by Vicki Iovine's (P346.50), and "Chocolate for a Woman's Soul" by Kay Allenbaugh (P262.50).

Reference books are also sold at a bargain. They include "DK Concise Encyclopedia of Science" (P297.50), "DK Picture English Dictionary" (P112.50), "DK Concise School Dictionary" (P159.75) and "DK Essential World Atlas" (P279.50).

Also sold at discounts are "Kevin McCloud's Decorating Book" (P382.50), "Sweet Celebrations" (P629.50), "Star Wars Episode 1: Visual Dictionary" (P74.25), "White Hot" (P809.50), and "Aquarium: An Owner's Manual" (P402.50).

Children's books on sale are "Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone" (P170), "Disney 12—LGB ABC" (P834.50), "Mickey & Friends Mega Coloring Book" (P47.50), "Macmillan First Dictionary" (P416.50) and "Child's Book of Prayer" (P237.50).

Anvil issues books on humor and Tsinoy culture

ANVIL Publishing will be releasing seven new diverse and interesting mass-market books at the 12th Philippine Bookfair.

On Sept. 7, 6 p.m., funnyman Gary Lising will be on hand to autograph his three new books: "Marcos in Red, Cory in Yellow, Ramos in Blue, Erap in Peach, Gloria in Excelsis," "Green and Bear It" and "Food for Thought for All Occasions." Lising is the acknowledged guru of Pinoy jokes and humorabilia.

On Sept. 8, at 3 p.m., 1999 Philippine Web Awards' Best in Culture Website, Tsinoy.com, will launch its landmark book called "How Tsinoy Are You?" The book is a compilation of the best insights and information on Tsinoy life as culled by editors Janella S. Cacdac and Walter Ang. Tsinoy.com is a thriving online community of Chinese-Filipinos.

Meanwhile, Golden Books, the oldest US publisher of children's storybooks and activity books, will be featured at the Anvil Publishing booth.

Cartoon favorites like the PowerPuff Girls, Scooby Doo, Rugrats, Barbie, Between the Lions and Blue's Clues will also be in attendance. Buyers of Golden Books will receive special gifts.

Forum on library science

THE PHILIPPINE Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science will hold a forum on "Management, Money and Marketing in Library and Information Science" on Sept. 7, 1:30-4 p.m.

The invited speaker is Prof. Ma. Theresa M. Jazmines, vice chancellor for student affairs of the University of the Philippines, Diliman. She is a member of the faculty of the College of Mass Communication and an expert in promotions and marketing.

Call Shirley Nava at 524-9740, or Josephine Sison at 920-5387.

National Book Awards 2000 finalists announced

(From page F1)

Principled Leadership" by Ma. Rosa N. Carrion-Buck, et. al. (Seagull Philippines); "Austregelina: A Story of Lina Espina Moore's Life and Selected Works" by Edna Zapanta Manlapaz (Anvil); "Lives at the Margin: Biography of Filipinos Obscure, Ordinary and Heroic," edited by Alfred W. McCoy (Ateneo de Manila University Press); "Teacher to Tycoon: The Life and Times of Trinidad Diaz Enriquez" by Erlinda Enriquez Panlilio (Anvil); and "Looking for Liling: A Family History of a World War II Martyr" by Alfredo Roces (Anvil).

Cartoons: "The Best of A. Lipin" by Jess Abrera (INQUIRER Books and Anvil); and "Ink and Politics" by Pol Medina Jr. (Pugad Baboy Inc.).

Children's Literature: "Ang Mahiyaing Manok" by Rebecca T. Añonuevo (Adarna Book Services); "The Quarreling Kites" by Lin Acacio Flores (Tahanan Books for Young Readers); "Ay! May Bukbok ang Ngipin ni Ani!" by Luis Gatmaitan (OMF Literature); "Cinco De Noviembre" by Rene Javellana, S.J. (The Bookmark Inc.); "The Jinx, the Dolphin and the Deep Sea Mystery" by Edgardo B. Maranan (Bookmark); "The Brothers Wu and the Goodluck Eel" by Fran Ng (Tahanan); "A Sea of Stories: Tales from Sulu" by Carla M. Pacis (Bookmark); and "Xilef" by Augie Rivera (Adarna).

Comic Books: "Trip to Tagaytay" by Arnold Arre (Quest Ventures and Tala Studios).

Cookbooks and Food: "In My Basket: The Cookbook" by Lydia D. Castillo (Bookmark); and "Center for Culinary Arts: Cooking with Filipino Chefs" (Anvil).

Drama: "Almanac for a Revolution" by Nicolas Pichay (UP Press).

Editing: "The Estrella D. Alfon Anthology, Volume I: The Short Stories," edited by Herminia Santos Bas (De La Salle University Press); and "Lina Flor: Collected Works," edited by Soledad S. Reyes (Anvil).

Environment: "The Last Great Forest" by Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan (Bookmark); and "Forest Policy and Politics in the Philippines: The Dynamics of Participatory Conservation," edited by Peter Utting (Ateneo Press).

Essay: "Random Walks and Other Essays: Ruminations of a So-So Manager" by Rene Azurin (UP Press); "Light to the World: The Vision of Fr. Raul Bonoan, S.J." by Raul Bonoan, S.J., edited by Soledad S. Reyes (Ateneo Office of Research and Publications); "The Spirit of 1896: A Mirror of the Philippine Past, a Window on the Nation's Future" by Jason Co (UP Press); "UP into the 21st Century and Other Essays" by Francisco Nemenzo (UP Press); and "Mysteries and Memories" by Doris Trinidad (Giraffe Books).

Fiction: "My Sad Republic" by Eric Gamalinda (UP Press); "Happy Endings," by Luis Katigbak (UP Press); "Life Before X and Other Stories" by Angelo Rodriguez Lacuesta (UP Press); "Desire and Other Stories by Paz Latorena," edited by Eva V. Kalaw (University of Santo Tomas Publishing House); "Mass for the Death of an Enemy" by Renato E. Madrid (Ateneo Press); "An Embarrassment of Riches" by Charlson Ong (UP Press); "Etsa-Puwera" by Jun Cruz Reyes (UP Press); and "Exactly Here, Exactly Now" by Nadine L. Sarreal (Giraffe Books).

Film Criticism:

NATIONAL\p.F4

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Pop Quiz

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☐ 4 apples
☐ 6 apples
☒ 14 apples
☐ none of the above

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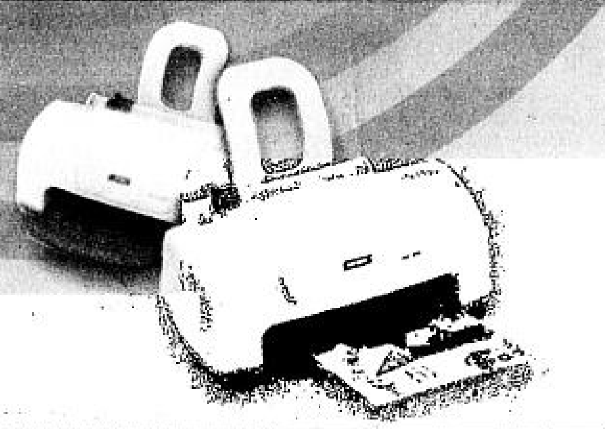

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PRESIDENT Manuel Fraga of Xunta de Galicia (Regional Autonomous Government) in Spain hands over the Medal of Galicia and its official certificate to veteran journalist Jose "Pepe" Rodriguez during awarding ceremonies recently held at the regional capital of Santiago de Compostela. For his meritorious efforts to strengthen ties between Galicia and the Philippines and for his achievements as writer, journalist and academician, Rodriguez was decorated with the highest distinction given by the regional autonomous government of Galicia. He is currently president of Academia Filipina de la Lengua Española, the Philippine branch of the Royal Academy of the Spanish Language. Rodriguez is a native of the region of Galicia, in northwestern Spain. He has been reporting and writing about the Philippines, his adopted homeland, since the '70s.

National Book Awards 2000 . . .

(From page F3)

"Geopolitics of the Visible: Essays on Philippine Film Cultures" by Rolando B. Tolentino (Ateneo Press) and "Bida sa Pelikula: Richard Gomez at ang Mito ng Pagkalalake, Sharon Cuneta at ang Perpetwal na Birhen at Iba Pa" by Rolando B. Tolentino (Anvil).

History: "Taming the Wind: Ethno-Cultural History on the Ivatan of the Batanes Isles" by Florentino H. Hornedo (UST Publishing House); "White Love and Other Events in Filipino History" by Vicente L. Rafael (Ateneo Press); and "Presidential Plunder: The Quest for the Marcos Ill-gotten Wealth" by Jovito R. Salonga (University of the Philippines).

Journalism: "Betrayal of the Public Trust: Investigative Reports on Corruption," edited by Sheila S. Coronel (Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism); "Investigating Estrada: Millions, Mansions and Mistresses," edited by Sheila S. Coronel (PCIJ); "Tales from Edsa" by Neni Sta. Romana Cruz (Anvil); "Public Faces, Private Lives" by Lorna Kalaw-Tirol (Anvil) and "Above the Crowd" by Lorna Kalaw-Tirol (Anvil).

Linguistics: "Defining Standard Philippine English: Its Status and Grammatical Features" by Ma. Lourdes S. Bautista (DLSU Press).

Literary Criticism: "Necessary Fictions: Philippine Literature and the Nation, 1946-1980" by Caroline S. Hau (Ateneo Press) and "Writing the Nation/Pagakda ng Bansa" by Bienvenido Lumbera (UP Press).

Personal Anthology: "The Sea-Gypsies Stay" by Rowena Torrevillas (UP Press).

Poetry: "Pagsiping Sa Lupain" by Roberto T. Añonuevo (Ateneo Press); "Karikatura at Iba Pang Kontra-Banda" by Teo T. Antonio (UST Publishing House); "The Firetrees Burn All Summer and Other Poems" by Salvador F. Bernal (Bookmark); "Waking Ice: Poems" by Ricardo M. de Ungria (Anvil); "Candon" by Reynaldo A. Duque (UP Press); "The Sorrows of Water" by J. Neil Carmelo Garcia (UP Press); "Edad Medya: Mga Tula sa Katanghaliang Gulang" by Jose F. Lacaba (Anvil); "Voice from the Underworld: A Book of Verses" by Maningning C. Miclat (Anvil); "Mujer Indigena" by Vim Nadera (UP Press); "Hunos: Mga Tula" by Allan Popa (Artista Publications); and "Ecstatic Mutations" by Eileen Tabios (Giraffe).

Screenplay: "Rizal: Bayaning 3rd World: 2 Dulang Pampelikula" by Mike de Leon and Clodualdo del Mundo Jr. (DLSU Press).

Social Sciences: "Generating Energies in Mount Apo: Cultural Politics in a Contested Environment" by Albert E. Alejo, S.J. (Ateneo Press); "Cuaresma," edited by Gilda Cordero Fernando and Fernando N. Zialcita (Bookmark); "The Tinge of Red: Prehistory of Art in the Philippines" by Jesus T. Peralta (National Commission on Culture and the Arts); and "Women, Power and Kinship Politics: Female Power in Post-war Philippines" by Mina Roces (Anvil).

Special Interest: "The Milflores Guide to Philippine Shopping Malls," edited by Antonio A. Hidalgo (Milflores Publishing Inc.).

Theology and Religion: "The Shepherd's Voice: Gospel Reflections for All Seasons" by Joseph V. Landy, S.J. (Tahanan); "Tomorrow Begins Today" by Harold J. Sala (OMF); and "Looking for Jesus: Reflections by the Street Corner" by Msgr. Socrates Villegas (Anvil).

Translation: "Mapangaraping Kagandahan," translated by Ceres S.C. Alabado (New Day Publishers); and "Noli Me Tangere," translated by Benjamin C. de la Fuente (DLSU Press).

Travel: "Philippine Ecodestinations" by Amadis Ma. Guerrero (Anvil); and "Why I Travel & Other Essays by Fourteen Women," edited by Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo and Erlina Enriquez Panlilio (Anvil).

In addition, a special citation will be awarded to the Carlos Palanca Foundation for its contributions to Philippine publishing through the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature anthologies. The MCC will also recognize the best-designed book of 1999 as well as the Publisher of the Year, the publisher who contributed the most to the growth of the publishing industry during the past year.

The MCC is a nonstock, nonprofit organization of professional literary critics and newspaper columnists who have been recognizing the country's best books with the National Book Award since 1981. The MCC's current members are: Juaniyo Arcellana, Fr. Miguel A. Bernad, S.J., Isagani R. Cruz, Ruel S. de Vera, Ophelia Alcantara Dimalanta, Doreen G. Fernandez, Resil B. Mojares, Danton R. Remoto and Alfred A. Yuson.

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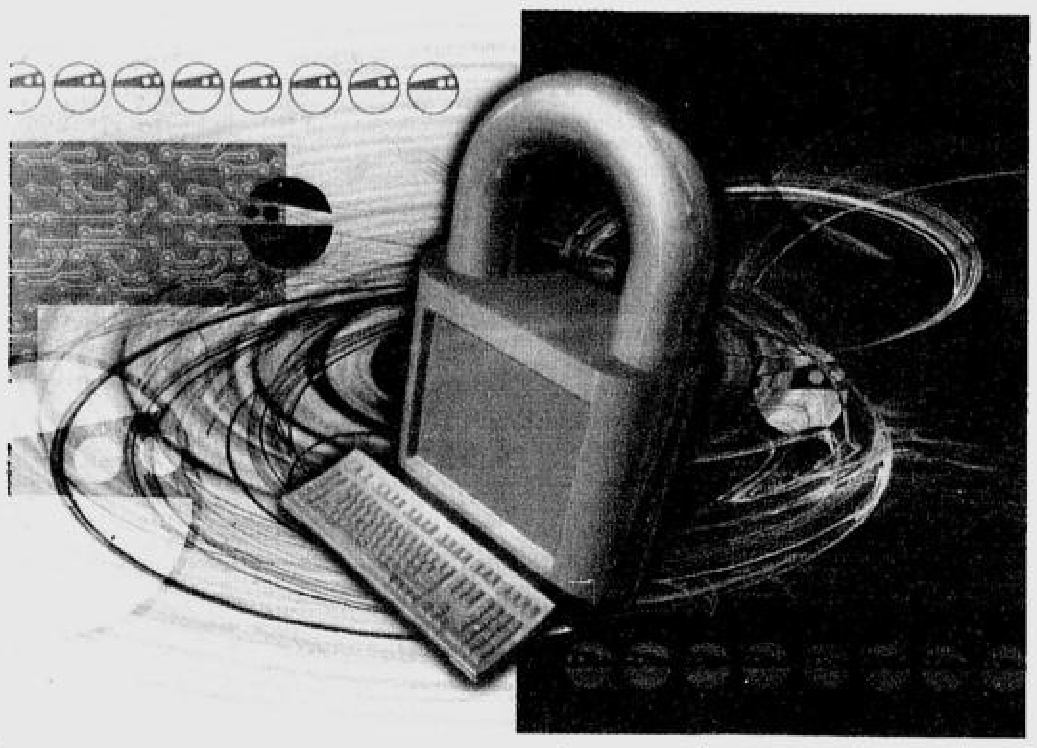
INFOTECH

LEO MAGNO, Editor



Global Internet security market to grow to $14B by 2005, says report

AS hacker attacks get more vicious and as more websites operate globally and rely on 24x7 operations, the demand for Internet security products continues to grow.

International Data Corp., a research company based in Framingham, Massachusetts, says in its latest industry study that worldwide demand for Internet security products grew sharply from 1999 to 2000, and will continue to climb for the next four years.

IDC says worldwide revenue from Internet security software increased to $5.1 billion last year, a 33-percent rise from 1999. The research firm predicts the market will achieve a compound annual growth rate of 23 percent from 2000 to 2005. Worldwide revenue will hit $14 billion in 2005, according to the study.

Another IDC report states that "nothing will convince a company to adopt security technology faster than a major security breach within its organization." Other key drivers in adopting Web security include increased Internet use and the implementation of virtual private networks.

"The extent of the impact a particular event may have on security measures undertaken at a company depends strongly on the company's primary business activity," says IDC analyst Lucie Draper.

IDC adds that last year's growth in Internet security spending was spread through all four segments of the security software market. The segments are firewalls, encryption software, antivirus software and an area known as 3A which stands for security authentication, authorization and administration.

Authentication and authorization are intertwined as both involve the same issues, and administration is somewhat of a miscellaneous category.

"Authorization includes things like single sign-on, authentication includes PKI, or public key infrastructure. This allows users to encrypt and unencrypt data over unsecure public networks

GLOBAL/ p.G2

Teen hacker who paralyzed CNN, Yahoo! presented at court hearing

MONTREAL—A 17-year-old computer hacker who paralyzed several major websites, including CNN and Yahoo!, needs structure, but should be spared further detention, his parents said at a sentencing hearing last week.

The Montreal teen—known only by his computer nickname, Mafiaboy, because of his age—

TEEN/ p.G2

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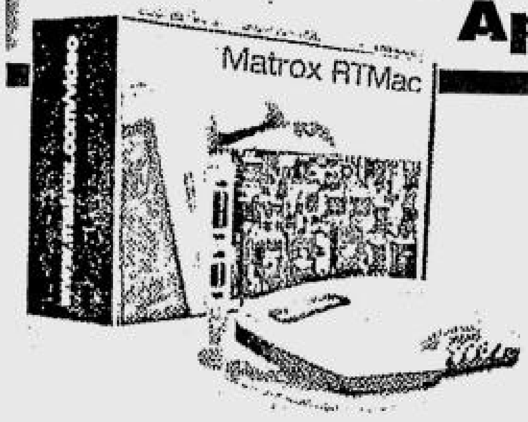

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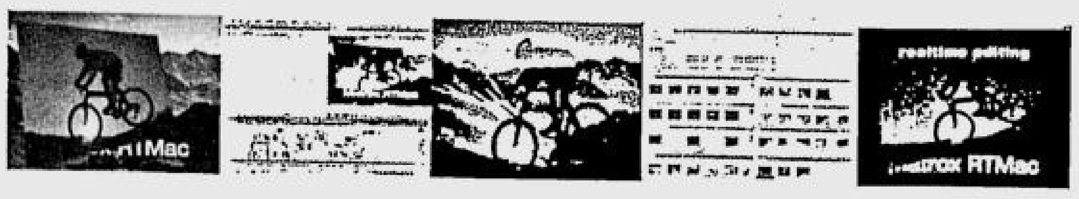

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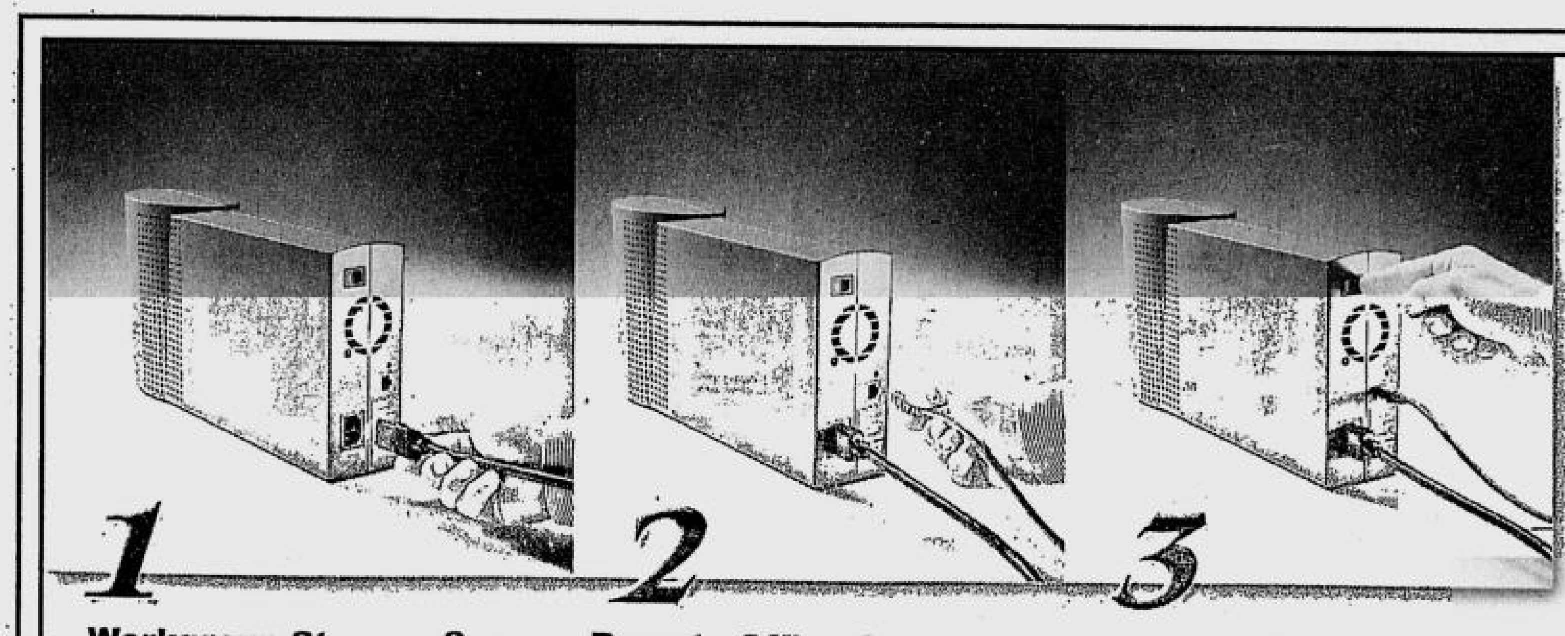

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Ayala, Cisco raise P6M for IT youth training

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

AYALA Foundation and networking company Cisco Systems have earmarked P6.6 million for a one-year project designed to help young Filipinos forced out of school by poverty to learn information technology (IT).

The project, dubbed Bridge Training Program for the Cisco Networking Academy Program, will teach English, computer literacy, mathematics and networking skills to Filipino out-of-school youths (OSYs).

Ayala Foundation executive director Ma. Aurora Tolentino said the project would initially benefit 72 OSYs from three institutions, including the Center for Industrial Technology and Enterprise (CITE) in Cebu, the Meralco Foundation in Metro Manila, and the Mary Help of Christian School in Pampanga.

"The choice of the three institutions is based on the priority areas of the Philippine Out-of-School Children and Youth Development Project (POSCYD)," Tolentino said during a briefing on Thursday.

The POSCYD is a World Bank-funded project that involves a consortium of government, business and civil society groups.

Tolentino also said the three institutions were chosen based on their capacity to replicate the program later in other nearby institutions.

Except for the Mary Help of Christian School, Meralco Foundation and CITE are presently Cisco Networking Academies (CNA). CNA is Cisco's educational initiative that extends education on fundamental network design, building and maintenance to select schools worldwide.

The Children and Youth Foundation of the Philippines, a non-profit organization, was tasked to become the program operation support center upon the implementation of the Bridge Training Program.

The Bridge Training Program will initially be a one-month training course for youths aged 16 to 24, who have completed at least second year in high school, and have been out of school for not more than three years.

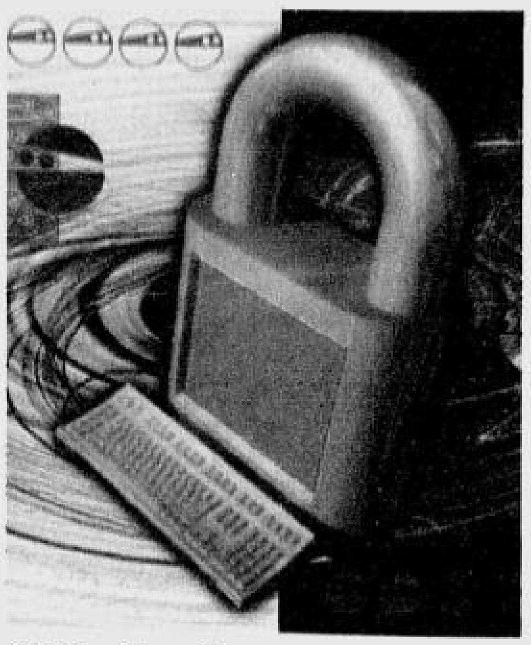
According to Tolentino, applicants would still undergo screening but would be selected based on their "attributes and skills," without any need for a written exam.

After the one-month training, the three institutions have all committed to "absorb" the graduates for on-the-job training in companies where the young recruits could apply their skills.

"We know that there are at least 11.2 million OSYs in the Philippines as of 1999. It would be hard to target them all. It's really a struggle to find enough resources to provide them all education. However, with this program, we hope others would follow suit," Tolentino said.

Noel Rivera, country manager of Cisco Systems Philippines, added: "We believe that education is the key catalyst for change in our country because this program enables the underprivileged members of the society to become active participants of the society again."

CNA—The Cisco Networking Academy Program, is a partnership between Cisco Systems, education, business, government and community organizations around the world. The Networking Academy curriculum centers on teaching students to design, build and maintain computer networks. The program prepares students for the 21st century workplace, while serving as a valuable model for e-learning.



Global . . .

(From page G1)

such as the Internet," says Brian Burke, senior research analyst in IDC's Internet security program. "Administration includes several unrelated security products that do not fit anywhere else, like intrusion detection, Web filtering and e-mail scanning."

The study says all four segments grew by 25 percent or more last year, with firewalls leading the way with a 42-percent growth. IDC predicts that 3A will be both the largest and fastest-growing segment of Internet security software.

Burke believes that 3A will be driven by several factors, including privacy strictures.

"Privacy regulations mandate that companies take steps to ensure data is protected and is available only to the right people. This is especially true in the health care industry," he added.

The anti-virus and firewall markets have become saturated and do not have as much room for future growth, Burke says. The rapid growth from 1999 to 2000 in the firewall sector was surprising, led by Checkpoint, the market leader.

"Now the market is pretty saturated, too, but there will be growth, especially in wireless technology," he says. "But compared to 3A, which is not saturated, it will not grow as much."

North America will account for 52 percent of worldwide Internet security software revenue in 2005, according to the IDC study. Asia Pacific will be the fastest-growing region, with a 32-percent growth from 2000 to 2005.

"North America will always be about 40 percent to 50 percent of the worldwide Internet security market," said Burke. "The other markets are growing faster because of the law of large numbers. Western Europe will be second, and Asia Pacific will be third."

IDC's Draper adds that the most frequent and widespread type of Internet infraction to a company's infrastructure is a virus infection at the client or server level. More than 90 percent of respondents to IDC's survey indicated their organizations had been infiltrated by a virus.

While viruses strike a significant number of companies regardless of industry, what distinguished industries is their ability to repel virus attacks at their inception. The resources, government, and utilities sectors are the most likely to stop a virus attack before it accomplishes any damage. On the other hand, retail, education, engineering and management, health care services and transportation companies have the most trouble recognizing and stopping virus attacks.

Teen hacker . . .

(From page G1)

pleaded guilty in January to 58 charges related to the February 2000 hacking attacks and security breaches of sites in Canada, the United States, Denmark and South Korea.

The boy, who was 15 at the time of the attacks, could receive up to two years in juvenile detention, while an adult charged with the same crimes could be sentenced to up to 10 years. Neither the prosecution nor the defense has recommended a specific sentence for the crimes that raised questions about Internet security.

Mafiaboy's mother told Judge Gilles Ouellet that her son "is not a bad boy," and noted that it was her son's first offense and it was not violent.

"I don't think being sentenced to closed custody will help him in any way," said the mother, who cannot be identified to prevent identification of the youth.

The boy's father, who is divorced from the mother, said he hopes his son will complete his education and have a career in a computer-related field.

"I believe he needs to be under a structure, with some restrictions, but I don't believe putting him in closed custody will help the case," the father said.

Louise Bellefeuille, a criminologist testifying for the defense, said the youth has been a model employee at the restaurant where he has worked since January and wants to enroll in adult education to complete his high school degree.

She said she had no problem with the boy being set free, with conditions.

Mafiaboy admitted involvement in denial-of-service attacks against websites belonging to five companies, including Amazon, Dell and eBay, Yahoo! and CNN. The sites were bombarded with thousands of simultaneous messages, which prevented legitimate users from accessing them for up to five hours.

Other charges involved illegal use of computers to help with the attacks. Those computers were located at various universities, including the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Massachusetts.

Previously, a social worker testified the youth showed no remorse and should spend at least five months in detention because he represented a moderate risk to offend again. *AP*

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Uptake in RP Internet banking remains low

By **Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva**

A LOCAL thrift bank which is set to launch its electronic banking service within September admitted recently that uptake on Internet banking in the Philippines remains low.

"Internet (usage) in the Philippines is at its infancy. Usage is highly dependent on the disposable income of Filipinos. In other words, how can we even think of offering Internet banking services to people if they can't afford to buy a PC or pay for access to the Internet?" said Primo Aguas, chief information officer of First e-Bank (formerly the Private Development Corp. of the Philippines Bank).

Aguas said that not all of its 90,000 account holders in the bank have Internet access, let alone telephone access. Thus, the bank will be setting up Internet kiosks in some branches numbering over 50 nationwide for account holders without Internet access. The Internet kiosks will be deployed in key urban areas.

Still, the local bank (with current assets of P12 to P14 billion) is not discounting the impact of the Internet on organizations.

"The Internet should be looked at as a way of improving processes, communications and information dissemination, and reducing costs," he said.

Aguas said the bank has recently invested "several millions of pesos" to upgrade its outdated network that interconnects most of its branches nationwide. The project will be completed by next month. The executive noted that the network upgrade would involve a switch from legacy systems to the more sophisticated Cisco networking systems.

This would allow bank tellers, loans officers and other banking staff to access information via a browser-based interface, and even make long distance calls (also known as voice over Internet Protocol) using the upgraded network.

Aguas expects "full payback" on its "several" million pesos investment in less than a year because it would cut down time of file transmissions and communications between branches nationwide.

"File downloads that would have taken 30 minutes on our old system now takes only 10 minutes. So you save time and improve staff productivity with the Internet," he added.

First e-Bank is formerly known as PDCP Bank. Last year, it was renamed First e-Bank after the owner, Metro Pacific, found it better to describe the company in line with its various e-commerce initiatives. The bank claims to have introduced the first mobile phone-based banking using short message service (SMS) for transactions. It has recently developed the electronic wallet dubbed Smart Money with affiliate Smart Communications Inc., a local mobile phone operator that controls close to 50 percent of the local market.

Nothing but Net for Magic, 3Com

THE NATIONAL Basketball Association's Orlando Magic has deployed a wireless network from 3Com Corp. at TD Waterhouse Centre, giving Magic coaches and staff members instant, game-day access to players' records and game statistics from courtside and the arena's stands. The Magic will also use the 3Com wireless local area network (WLAN) for similar purposes at home games of the Orlando Miracle WNBA franchise.

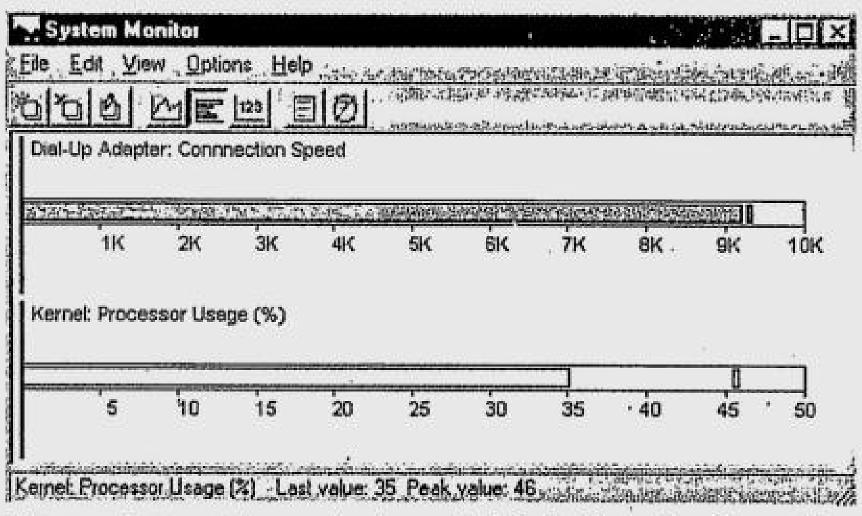
"We selected 3Com's AirConnect wireless solution with confidence based on our solid track record with 3Com and the system's outstanding price/performance," said Marc Glinsboeckel, Magic director of IT. "Using the AirConnect solution, we'll no longer have to set up and break down wired networks for up to 50 home games per season and our staff will receive the quality network access they need during games as if they were in our corporate offices."

World Without Wires, a Tampa, Florida wireless network integrator, worked with RDV Sports, the parent company for the Orlando Magic and Orlando Miracle, to install the 3Com wireless network.

Monitoring your Internet connection

By **Jerry Liao**

DO you want to monitor your Internet connection speed, buffer overruns, timeout errors, incomplete frames and a lot more visually? Use the Windows 98 System Monitor application:


System Monitor
File Edit View Options Help
Dial-Up Adapter: Connnection Speed
1K 2K 3K 4K 5K 6K 7K 8K 9K 10K
Kernel: Processor Usage (%)
5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50

Kernel: Processor Usage (%) Last value: 35 Peak value: 46

POWERTIPS

(1) Connect to the Internet.

(2) Go to "Start," then "Programs," "Accessories," "System Tools" then "System Monitor."

(3) Click "Edit" then choose "Add Item."

(4) Under "Category", select "Dial-up Adaptor."

(5) Under the category "Item," choose which kind of information you wish to monitor (to select multiple items, press "CTRL" plus the left mouse button at the same time).

(6) Click "OK" and System Monitor will begin tracking the information you've selected.

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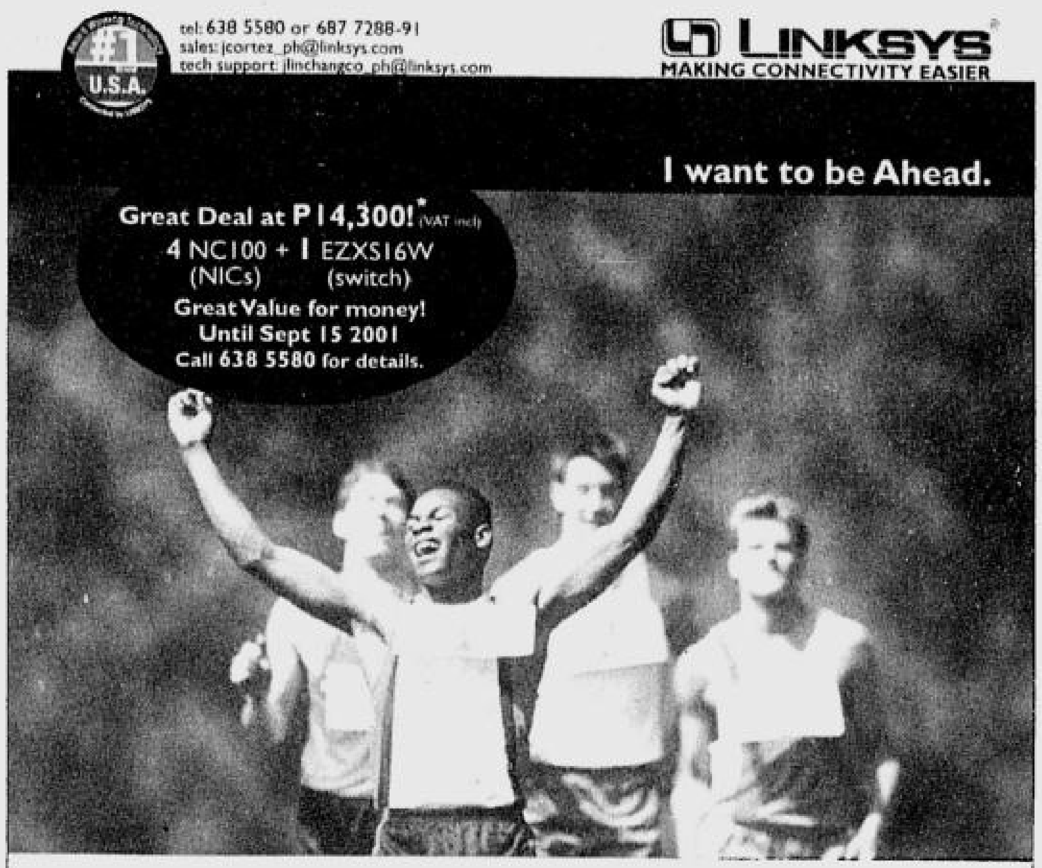
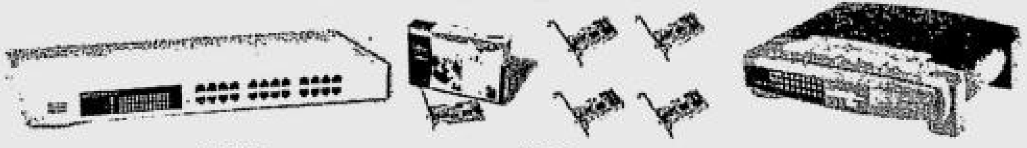
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Critical Path enlists Tritel as new partner

LOCAL wireless solutions company Tritel Wireless Inc. has joined global information technology heavyweights as a technology partner of Critical Path, a Nasdaq-listed IT company.

Tritel Wireless president Ronald Ly Siasoyco said the choice of his company as one of Critical Path's global technology partners underscores the fact that Filipinos are a force to reckon with in the IT industry.

The announcement of Tritel Wireless as a technology partner came from a recent media advisory of Critical Path Inc., a leading global provider of Internet messaging and directory infrastructure. Aside from Tritel Wireless, other current Critical Path technology partners are Entrust Technologies, Baltimore Technologies, Brightmail, EMC and Netegrity. Before its elevation as a global technology partner, Tritel Wireless served as Critical Path's training and technical support hub for the Asia Pacific.

"We were chosen (as global technology partner) because Critical Path saw that what we have built here in the Philippines supports Critical Path's worldwide program for its worldwide strategy," Siasoyco said.

On the local front, the Ortigas-based Tritel Wireless is currently the integrated mobile mail partner of Globe Telecom. This means Tritel makes it possible for Globe to provide mobile mail service to its subscribers using either WAP, SMS and the SIM tool kit.

Tritel also provides technology for mobile banking and mobile commerce, with clients including Standard Chartered Bank, DBS Bank and Equitable-PCI Bank.

E-commerce tool now in RP market

GLOBAL NetworX Corp. will make its GNXtraNet e-commerce software and hardware package available to Philippine buyers under countertrade arrangements, either in whole or in part.

This was announced by Mark Quinn, executive vice president of Global NetworX Corp. Quinn disclosed GNX's marketing flexibility, hoping that by using arrangements such as these, GNX will aid the Philippines in procurement of Internet business technology and assist it in reaching the forefront of e-commerce.

Called GNXtraNet, GNX's proprietary enabling hardware and software package is a highly developed e-business tool. Offering multiple trading processes, inventory management and procurement applications, GNXtraNet is flexible yet geared for use as an export application.

The software provides the ability to seamlessly negotiate and sell goods and services online using variable pricing techniques and payment methods that can be mixed and matched according to individual needs with the click of a mouse. The hardware is included, making connectivity fast, simple and completely controllable.

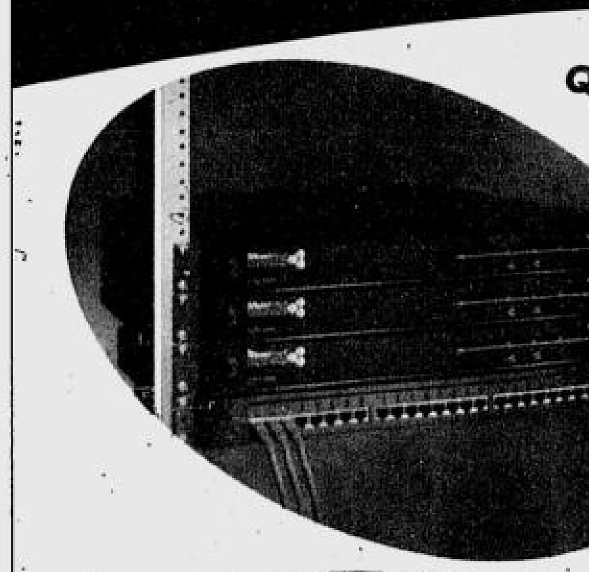
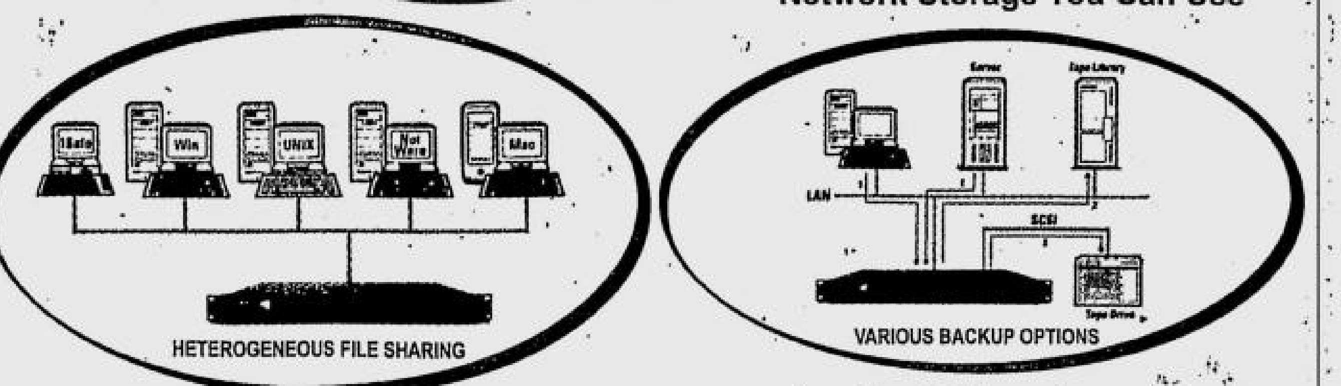
Informatics launches certification programs

INFORMATICS is launching new courses under its Informatics Certified Professional program (ICP), courses which were first introduced in Singapore and are now in the Philippines to address the demand for qualified IT professionals.

"Globalization is a reality that resulted from new technologies being introduced every day. It has been possible to remove boundaries resulting in a highly competitive global market," said Leo Riingen, Informatics president and CEO. "Informatics has developed a certification program that will increase the IT professional's marketability not only in the Philippines but also abroad. ICP graduates have the edge over their competition because the skills they will learn through our courses will equip them with tools necessary to cope with the requirements of the dynamic and demanding IT industry worldwide."

The initial course offerings of ICP will be delivered through three different channels. To be offered at existing Informatics centers are the Certified Creative Web Developer and Certified Internet Application Developer. The Certified Creative Web Developer caters to individuals who are already familiar with the Windows interface. The Certified Application Developer targets software designers and developers. Students for both courses are expected to have sufficient knowledge in structured programming languages and Internet browsing activities.

For next level course delivery and training, Mastering Internet Technologies (i-Net +) and Mastering Computer Networks (Network +) will be two of the specialized programs to be offered at the Informatics Professional Development Centre (IPDC) in Makati City. Network + was designed for those who want to receive certification as network engineers and computer technicians. i-Net + on the other hand, is intended for those who want to be Web designers and developers and E-commerce technical professionals. Network engineers or administrators and technical support engineers can be accommodated for both courses.

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E-mail, news still most popular Net applications, content

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

AFTER E-MAIL, news and "references" are the most popular online applications among Philippine Internet users, a recent study conducted by an Australian research firm shows.

Asked what they generally use the Internet for, 73 percent of respondents said they go online for Philippine news and related information, findings of the recently concluded Philippine Online survey conducted by www.consult Pty Ltd show.

The questions allow multiple responses from the respondents. E-mail remained the top application among those surveyed.

Also asked what news website or portal they frequent, more than 70 percent of users said they read INQ7.net (formerly Inquirer Interactive), now the online news website owned by the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network Inc.

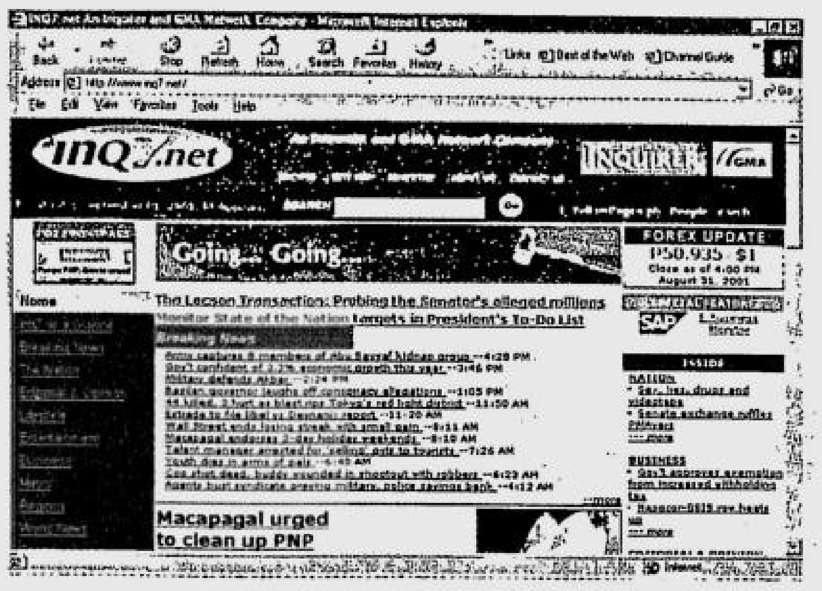
This was consistent with the study's finding that 54 percent of the respondents read the Philippine Daily Inquirer offline. Manila Bulletin was in second place with 48 percent.

Last year, the same survey showed that Internet users read the Inquirer, in both its broadsheet and online versions, than any other newspaper in the country.

Business and information technology professionals comprise the largest group of regular Internet users, the study indicated.

Www.consult claims to be the largest Internet research company in Australia and Southeast Asia. ACNielsen acquired the company on November 2000.

The Philippine Online survey, which was started in 1998, involves current and regular Internet users (at least online once a week) in the Philippines. This year, 5,838 respondents were involved in the study. The survey included 3,640 males and 2,108 females.



The Lacson Transaction: Probing the Senator's alleged millions

Macapagal urged to clean up PNP

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Since the information gathered are based on a sample data, the results were subject to a sampling error of plus or minus 1.3 percent.

The survey was promoted through online advertising banners, hyperlinks, online news items and listings or postings in newsgroups and search engines.

The survey began November 2000 and ended February 2001.

Interestingly, results of this year's study suggested a slowdown in the growth of Filipino Internet users. Majority of those surveyed had been online for more than two years.

Each user spends an average of one to three hours per day online after business hours and weekends, and paying an average of P800 a month for Internet access. Last year, the median cost was P450. Majority of the Philippine Internet users (63 percent) surveyed still access the Internet via a dial-up connection, although most want to pay extra for faster Internet access service.

The study estimated that there is now a total of 800,000 Filipinos who go online at least once a week.

The study also established a profile of a typical, regular Filipino Internet user: male, single, in his 20s, university-educated, employed and earning an income between P25,000 and P46,000 a month, and has three e-mail accounts.

In last year's study, the proportion of female users is higher in the Philippines than in any other Asian country.

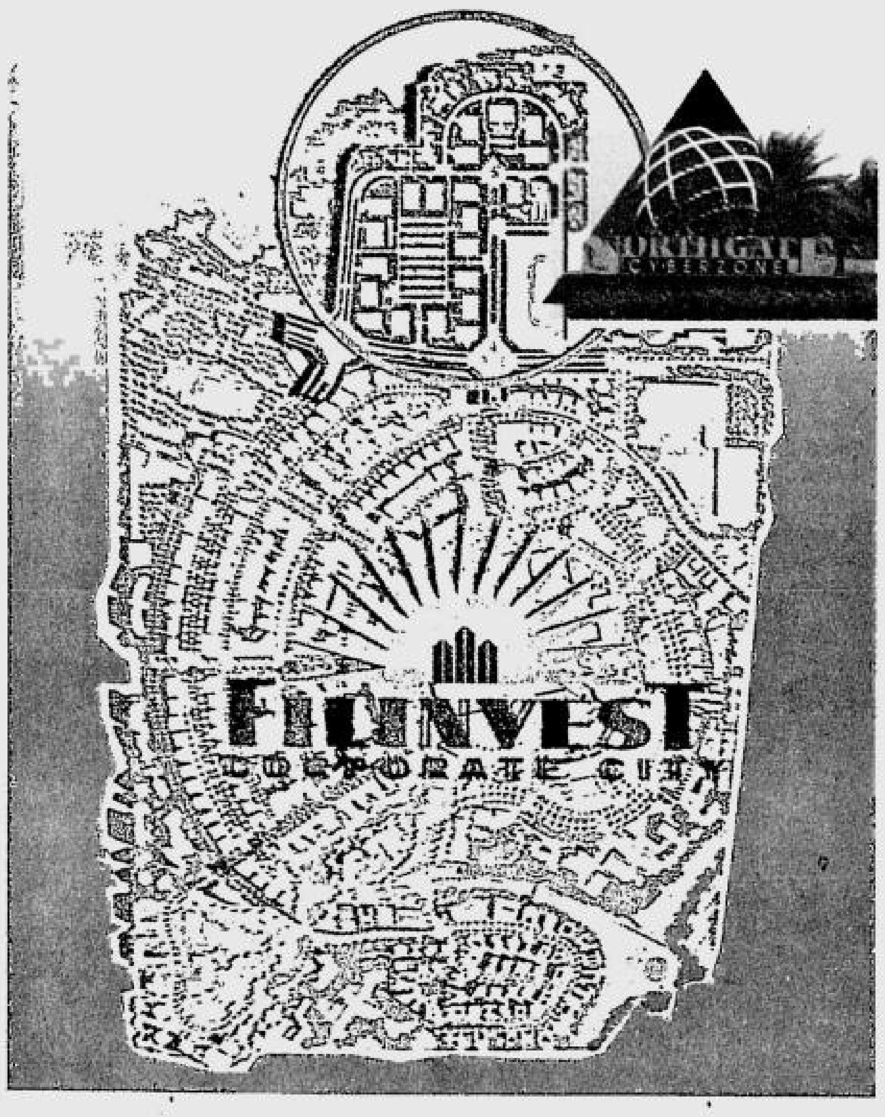
Meanwhile, the results of this year's study indicated that Philippine Internet users are younger. Last year, two-thirds were between 20 and 34 years old. This year, the average age was between 25 and 29. This year's female Internet users were mostly younger than the male regular users. The home page remains the most popular access point for regular Internet users. The study, however, discovered that Internet cafés are also fast becoming popular this year.

Total e-environment in a premier satellite city

Attuned to the rapid developments of the new millennium, Filinvest taps the power of technology and combines it with over three decades of experience in real estate development to create an I.T. environment unmatched in the region.

Offering more than just superior and reliable convergent network technology, the 18.7-hectare Northgate CyberZone is master-planned to provide a high-tech working environment complemented by superior lifestyle facilities and comprehensive infrastructure. Conducive to all forms of e-business, it can only be described as the total e-environment.

Northgate CyberZone (NCZ) lies at the northern perimeter of Filinvest Corporate City (FCC), the fast-rising satellite city in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Being part of this city is NCZ's unique advantage that ensures a high-quality lifestyle befitting the Philippines' future center of I.T. innovation.



Strategic location

FCC is situated in an ideal and most sought-after location at the southern side of Metro Manila. Only 15 km from Makati, 20 km from Manila and 10 km from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, FCC lies at the gateway to the progressive Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) growth corridor.

It is located at the center of economic activity where 50 percent of the industrial estates in the Philippines are within a 5-25 kilometer radius. This makes it a cost-efficient site for R&D facilities of allied industries manufacturing microchips and computer components in the Calabarzon. FCC is also surrounded by a 3-million population base and skilled manpower source, choice residential areas, and the recreational spots of the Southern Tagalog region.

The Palms Country Club perspective

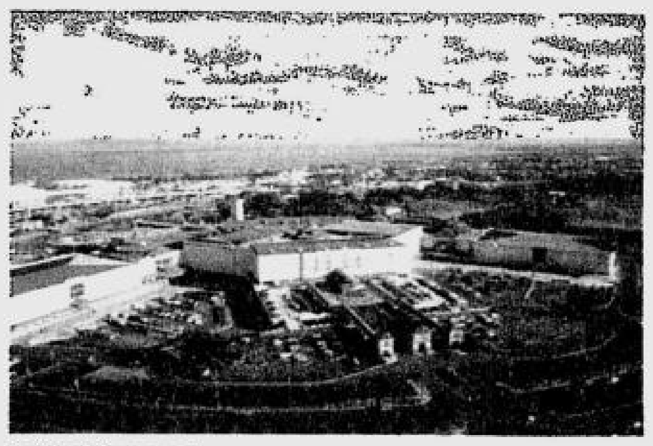
Office and residential towers

Accessibility

The site enjoys superior accessibility. It lies at the junction of five major roadways: the South Expressway, Alabang-Zapote Road, the Old National Highway, and the upcoming Metro Skyway and Circumferential Road 6.

It is also accessible to the I.T. workforce and the commuting public because it is the main transportation hub of the South. It is a major destination point for buses from the provinces and a layover area for inter-urban and intra-city buses and jeepneys. The nearby Philippine National Railway station provides a mass transit alternative and has been identified as a government priority program for development.

Ospital ng Muntinlupa and Asian Hospital



Festival Supermall

Aspen Tower

Master-planned development

NCZ benefits from being part of FCC, a world-class urban center. Both were master-planned by the SWA Group, a renowned authority on urban planning and landscape architecture. As a viable alternative to the concrete jungle, FCC offers all the components of a self-sufficient city in an environment that is at once greener and more refreshing than other metro cities.

Thus, I.T. personnel will experience a dynamic, high-quality lifestyle with FCC's wide range of developments that are minutes away from the zone. Among these are the Festival Supermall, the internationally managed Asian Hospital, condominiums, hotels, serviced apartments and The Palms Country Club.

Modern infrastructure

FCC has laid the foundations to accommodate the city's requirements even upon full build-out. Underground power lines and state-of-the-art fiber-optic telecommunications system provide a passport for entry into the cyber age, along with a multi-source water system and advanced-technology sewage treatment plant.

All these make southern Metro Manila's first I.T. zone the best choice for technology companies. Not merely a workplace, Northgate CyberZone affords locators a valuable opportunity to become a major player in information technology – truly the total e-environment.

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